

# inside SOCCER

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## SECOND TEAM FOR PERTH

THE HUGE BOX office success currently being enjoyed by Perth Glory has started a clamour for a second team from

the west Australian state – with either Perth or Fremantle being touted as the home base.

Currently Perth Glory is enjoying the situation of having access to the state's business sponsors without any opposition.

But Glory officials would argue that they are still in the stages of developing their club – and that there is a long way to go.

Perth Glory do not have a home ground that they can call their own although there are moves to rectify that situation with a purpose built football stadium for the state capital.

In their two and a half seasons in the Ericsson Cup to date the westerners have consistently been the market leaders although it is only this season that they have seen any consolidated success in the actual football competition.

Supporters of the second team proposal say that having another team would be of benefit to both Perth Glory and the state's soccer fans, giving Glory local competition as well as providing a weekly fare of Ericsson Cup football for fans.

On the field the Glory are facing their toughest challenge as they go into the busy

January schedule with a squad depleted by injury and suspension.

That is always a problem for

Glory," said one club insider.

"At this time of the year they struggle for numbers but without a team in the national Youth League, or a comparable

Any team in Perth could expect at least an average 10,000 per game following which would mean an extra 150,000 or

so fans for the league."

And with the Ericsson Cup having seen its 500,000 customer already this season at Saturday's Marconi game that makes a

mouthwatering prospect.

Attendance figures have

never been so good nationally, even although many clubs are still guilty of doctoring their crowds.

Estimates of this season's total attendance figures would see the total league and finals gate take come close to 1.5 million – with even the 44,000 Grand Final record under threat if the Glory get the chance to stage their first ever season finale.

*Ace Glory striker John Markovski  
Picture: Sports West*

By Bruce Campbell

competition, they do not have the ability of carrying a squad of twenty two or twenty three players."

But Perth boss Nick Tanna insists that he has done a deal with the ASF which guarantees a five year virtual monopoly.

However, it seems that the agreement was little more than a 'gentlemen's handshake' done with a previous SA administration.

Current Soccer Australia officials may believe that that agreement has no real substance.

Officials at Driver Avenue are remaining tight lipped at the prospect of a second Perth inclusion but it is no secret within the game that the Perth success story is the envy of all clubs – as well as an administration anxious to capitalise on the self-inflicted catastrophes being felt in rival codes like Rugby League.

"A second team in Perth would be great for our aggregate crowd attendance figures," *Inside Soccer* was told.



# WIN

## Olyroo tickets

See pages 12/13



## FIFA ban, well maybe not .....

CAMEROON'S international soccer status was still uncertain after national television broadcast the contents of a letter from FIFA suspending the country from competition.

But FIFA said it had made no such decision.

"As far as FIFA is concerned, Cameroon is not suspended from football," FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said.

"No communication has gone out from the general secretary's office to Cameroon on this matter and, as our offices are closed until January 4, nothing will be decided until then at the earliest."

A statement, reportedly from FIFA, was broadcast on Cameroon television stating that the Federation Camerounaise de Football (FECAFOOT) had been suspended from all FIFA-organised competitions after a decision

on December 23.

The statement said FIFA had taken this step because of "frequent interference in the affairs of FECAFOOT by the Ministry of Youth and Sports", which has prevented the federation from implementing directives issued by FIFA and aimed at restoring order in FECAFOOT.

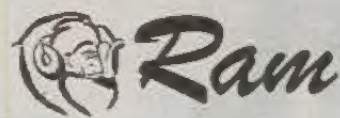
FECAFOOT has been in disarray since its former president, Vincent Onana, was detained over a World Cup tickets sale scandal in June.

He was suspended from his post in August, along with FECAFOOT's national management committee.

FIFA has made no secret of the fact it is upset at government interference in the sport in the country.

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# Royal Commission into youth talent drain demanded

LEADING Australian soccer officials are fuming about charges that our kids are being steered away from playing for their country by greedy English clubs.

The latest episode was highlighted in a *Sydney Morning Herald* article last week by top journalist Michael Cockerill but it is just another sage in a long running episode.

At one time ASF officials tried to impose an indenture scheme at the Australian Institute of Sport to try and curb the poaching of youngsters which has now reached dramatic proportions.

Teenagers, some as young as 14 and 15, are being offered Youth Trainee Schemes by rich English clubs who see Australia as a still untapped goldmine - despite the amount of local talent playing overseas.

Because our kids come so cheap a great many English clubs

employ scouts and agents in Australia to track the cream of our talent.

That has prompted one leading coach to say that it has to stop.

"It is getting ridiculous now," *Inside Soccer* was told.

"Just about everybody and his dog is involved in supplying names to overseas clubs.

"The sad thing is that it doesn't stop with our senior players, it includes kids who are very young and green.

"Most of these won't last in England but that doesn't matter because the clubs over there see it as a percentage game - and who cares about the kids who fail.

"If just one makes it they have saved themselves millions.

"Look at Harry Kewell, he is a great example."

The Cool Kid got nowhere near an NSL club, being snapped up by Leeds United while being developed at the NSW Institute of

Sport.

Leeds would argue that they developed Kewell.

And it is that same Premier League club which is at the centre of the latest storm.

Jamie McMaster, who is on YTS terms with Leeds, has been asked to change his allegiance to one of the four British home countries - or jeopardise his future at the club.

The Central Coast teenager has been

placed in a situation which is against FIFA law - yet Leeds, and their agents in Australia, are flaunting them at every turn.

Leeds United has even said that it will impose the same conditions on all Australian youngsters in future - because they do not want to release their players for the extra travel time involved in Australian home fixtures.

McMaster, whose family is Scottish, was recruited by Leeds last

year from Westfields Sports High School which operates under a government funded sports programme.

Now headmaster Phil Tucker is certain to be in front of his bosses when he returns after his summer holidays.

His role in identifying young players to English clubs is certain to be put under the microscope.

Former NSW director of coaching David Lee has criticised the school's role.

Lee is a scout for English Premier league club Middlesbrough.

Three other Westfields students, Shane Cansdell-Sheriff, Brad Groves and Martin Hunter, have also been offered contracts at Leeds United.

The English club also mounted an unsuccessful bid recently to back Parramatta Eagles in Australia's National Soccer League.

Had the bid been successful then Leeds United would have provided a clear path

for its planned conveyor belt of Australian soccer talent.

But other English and European clubs operate similar schemes and are just as active in the Australian youth talent market.

The role of the AIS has also come under renewed criticism with a number of last year's graduates seeking careers in England.

"Who pays the bills for these so-called coaches to operate in the first place," *Inside Soccer* was asked.

"If anyone is even partly paid by an Australian government or ASF funded project then they are morally responsible to do the right thing by the game in this country.

"But they are also legally obliged also.

"The Australian Soccer Federation should ask for an immediate Royal Commission."

ASF Chairman Basil Scarsella is due to have talks with Leeds United on the issue.

Bruce Campbell

# Blatter takes on Euro power base

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has called for the World Cup finals to be staged every two years.

"I want a football world championship every two years. Then the national teams will get the rankings they deserve," Blatter said in an interview published in the mass circulation Sunday newspaper *Sonntags Blick*.

"I'm calling for a clear declaration: do we want national teams or do we only want club football?"

Blatter said he favoured holding regional or continental championships during every uneven year and the World Cup every second year.

The most successful teams in the continental championships would qualify for the

World Cup.

"The current four-year rotation is outdated. It comes from the thirties (1930s) when the teams still travelled from continent to continent by ship," Blatter said.

The newly installed FIFA boss has waged a club v country battle since he succeeded Joao Havelange in the post.

The recent Confed-

erations Cup debacle was seen as a bitter blow to his supremacy, coming as it did in the wake of allegations of bribery in the FIFA elections.

Blatter has also gone out on a limb in promoting Africa as a venue for the World Cup in preference over Europe.

This latest twist may just be another step along the battle with

the European super power which lies mainly at club level.

With the expansion on the European Champions League now on the table it is unlikely that Europe's major club bosses would be very receptive to an almost continual World Cup with the European Championship also gaining in popularity.



# War of words continues as Auckland prepare to join the league

By Ted Simmons

A LEADING club official has warned the national soccer league is "on death row" and called for Soccer Australia to rethink plans to admit an Auckland-based team.

But national league general manager Stefan Kamasz angrily disputed the claim today, saying the Ericsson Cup competition was in good shape.

The war of words erupted after Sydney Olympic general manager Frank Martin challenged Soccer Australia chairman Basil Scarsella on the future of the league in a letter, copies of which were sent to all NSL clubs.

"Let us be clear about the current status of the national soccer league - it is on 'death row' and without some serious planning there is no future," Martin wrote.

"There is an increasing number of clubs into which private owners are now pouring considerable personal funds and they're looking for a return on that investment."

"The financial structure of the league is still questionable, no acceptable budget for the current season has been sighted by the policy review committee and there is an ever decreasing sponsorship base to meet the league running expenses..."

Martin's letter was triggered by a report that the Auckland Kings were set to officially become the NSL's 16th team within the next week after the SA board reiterated its support for the move.

Martin reminded Scarsella of a meeting in November where the clubs voted unanimously

that the committee did not accept any new teams into the league until a plan to determine the league's future direction was implemented.

He said the Auckland Kings had been rejected last year on the basis that there was no market benefit and their admission had the potential to be more costly to the league.

"Where is the plan for the Ericsson Cup. Rugby league has been all through this on the expansion issue and soccer is ignoring all that's been done," Martin said.

"The clubs had previously decided we needed a five year business and a five year marketing

plan and we really need to examine the make-up and structure of the competition.

"We're in total disarray and if plans are not made, we'll die financially. Clubs can't pay players wages on the returns through the gates and sponsors."

"We need a national promotion and relegation scheme, crowd figures need to parallel Northern Spirit and Perth, professionalism is not there and we have to ask if there are enough quality players to justify the extra teams."

In his letter Martin wrote: "Recent comments in various media regarding crowd attendances cannot be ignored or simply passed off with self-generated hype publicity suggesting that crowd figures are on the increase. It is NOT true."

Kamasz agreed that without serious planning, there would not be any future in any competition but said the future for the league looked good.

He said a draft long range plan had been prepared last August but needed finalising before it went before the board, although it had not been seen by the clubs.

"A budget was presented and will show a profit this year and whether the clubs like it or not, the number of people watching the league on television and at grounds is greater than at any previous period," said Kamasz.

"Between half a million and 600,000 people are watching the ABC live telecast each week and we're getting higher ratings than we've had in the past."

"The 466th patron at Marconi Stadium on Saturday night will be the league's 500,000th person to attend a game this season and we're confident of breaking the million mark before the last round in April."

Soccer Australia figures show a total of 985,538 attending league matches last season, including the finals series.

Kamasz said the clubs had opposed the successful Northern Spirit as well Auckland when it was first proposed and the question of introducing new clubs was purely a matter for the Soccer Australia board.

"The sooner the Review Committee document gets the green light, the sooner we can start addressing problems. But it would be better if everyone concentrated on their own club and allowed the board to do its work," he added.

Perth Glory general manager Roger Lefort has echoed the sentiments expressed by Sydney Olympic manager

Frank Martin.

Lefort said he was disappointed that the NSL had apparently agreed to admit an Auckland team into the competition, although he pointed out that it was yet to be confirmed.

"We made it quite clear when we went to a policy review meeting that we felt that Soccer Australia should not be admitting any more clubs before they have some discussions with the existing clubs," he said.

"That was the decision at that meeting and a vote was taken that no action would be taken by Soccer Australia until the clubs had expressed their views."

"It would appear from an article in the eastern states (*Inside Soccer* broke the story last week and was quickly picked up by other papers) that the decision has already been made but it should not have been made until all clubs had the opportunity to air their views."

"But we've yet to be advised by Soccer Australia that Auckland is in."

Even though Perth consistently draws the biggest crowds in the NSL, Lefort agreed the general level of attendances around the country was cause for concern.

"Being on death row might be a bit strong, but I don't think that soccer in Australia through the national league is in a very strong position," he said. "You take away the clubs that really pull in the crowds, like ourselves and Northern Spirit, then the crowds really are quite disastrous. If the best they can do is 2,500 to 3,000 at some games, I think that's pretty poor."

"I don't know what the answer is, apart from privatisation of the clubs and let the national league run itself to some degree rather than let Soccer Australia run it."

## Craig Deans signs for Glory, while Ithier goes to Marine

By Richard Kreider in Perth

PERTH Glory has eased their defensive worries by gaining the services of local all-rounder Craig Deans, who will be on loan until the end of the season.

With Robert Trajkovski, Vinko Buljubasic and James Afkos sidelined through injury, coach Bernd Stange was eager to find a replacement until they return.

Deans was close to signing for Melbourne Knights, and he then received a lucrative offer from a team in Hong Kong, but the 23-year old from the Western Knights club decided that he should go for Glory.

"They (Melbourne Knights) messed me about too much while I was there, and although the Hong Kong offer was a good one, I felt career wise it was best that I sign with Perth," Deans said.

Although his favourite position is in midfield, he admits he is not as effective there as he is when he is performing a centre-back or sweepers role.

The large Glory crowds will not be a concern for the tall stopper, because he played for the Western Australian State team against English clubs Nottingham Forest and West Ham United in 1995 at the WACA

Ground where there were 10,000 plus people at each game.

Meanwhile, former Glory defender Doug Ithier has signed for Singapore club Marine Castle United and will team up with ex-Nigerian youth international Peter Anosike who was also at Perth Glory for a short term before being released last season.

Ithier captained Malaysian side Sarawak last year.

Another former Glory star and Soccerero, Ernie Tapai, is also in Singapore with Home United.

Ithier recently had successful trials with English club Blackburn Rovers and played three games for Walsall, but passport

restrictions and the impending arrival of a baby in July, made Ithier decide to move closer to Australia.

"It would have been ideal to have been approached by Perth Glory, but I like it in Singapore and although my goals are higher, I am looking forward to playing there for now," he said.

The talented 24-year old centre-back signed a 12 month contract with Marine Castle, his manager Graham Smith has already had offers from Portugal and Greece, as well as an opportunity to play in the Major League Soccer competition in the United States.



## Calls for Dade's sacking

A MISTAKE which allowed Mike Smith's goal to stand in a Round 12 Ericsson Cup match has led to calls for referee Wayne Dade to be sacked from the national referee's list.

"Mike Smith clearly committed a foul," an irate Melbourne Knights official told *Inside Soccer*. "It is about time we started

clearing our some of the poor referees on the list. Dade should be sacked."

The incident happened late in injury time as Maconi's Smith challenged for a ball and Dade allowed the goal to stand resulting in a 2-1 win to the Stallions.

Several TV stations have shown the incident which clearly shows a foul being committed.

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# Bruce Campbell

## IT'S ONLY AN OPINION

RECORD crowds at NSL matches, the box office success of Perth Glory and Northern Spirit and a general feeling of bonhomie throughout the game greet us as we get ready to whizz through the last twelve months of the twentieth century.

I am sure that this will be a very fast year - as they have been ever since I passed my fortieth.

But this year promises so much for the round ball code in this country and it could well be the year when we really do push on.

The admittance of Auckland into the NSL next season (as reported in last week's *Inside Soccer*) will cause a lot of diverse opinion throughout our game but if we are smart enough then we can really capitalise on the positives.

Soccer is big business in Australia now and as more and more clubs go full time then the horizons are being pushed even further back.

This year *Inside Soccer* will cover major

events such as the Women's World Cup and the FIFA World Youth Cup.

We will also see our pages increasingly devoted to the Olyroos as their campaign for the Sydney 2000 Games starts to gain momentum.

Then, of course, we will also see our pages embrace the two major semi pro leagues of the VSF and NSWFL, both of which are due to kick off just at the end of this month.

Later we will welcome district leagues throughout the country as we increase our size.

That will all set the stage for the biggest New Year's Eve party of our lifetimes as the clock ticks down towards the Year 2000.

Then it is full steam ahead for the Sydney Games and another World Cup campaign.

Already the controversy of whether Soccer Australia should confirm a new national coach, and who that should be, is raging.

Tony Labbozzetta, the NSL chairman, has already expanded in our pages the official reason

for not making that appointment and it would seem that we will be kept until the Olympics are nearly on us before the new Socceroos coach is named.

However, Sydney 2000 is no ordinary Olympic Games, this is the one and only chance we will have to win a soccer Gold Medal on our home soil.

The Games will likely never return to Australia in my lifetime and maybe Mr Labbozzetta is right, that we should devote all of our resources to achieving that goal.

If a few players miss out on a cap or two then maybe that is a justifiable expense.

Will our World Cup campaign really suffer if it doesn't kick off until September 2000 - a year before we play serious eliminators?

In truth I would think it would.

But the reality is that we could not afford a decent Olympics campaign otherwise.

So let's make the most of it in the meantime.

But let us also look to an improved future.

Isn't it high time that

we expanded our national team's system?

With four teams con-

international football.

A man who has a wealth of professional

a football guru to be the lynch pin for our international success, a man who will stay at the helm and help also to develop future coaches for the international system.

And on that note isn't it high time that our best young coaches were brought into the system as confirmed assistants at Under 17 and Under 20 level.

If this is the learning ground for players then it is equally so the learning ground for our future national coach.

To date Australia has never adopted any reasoned system of national team coach development.

Little wonder then that we haven't been to the World Cup finals since 1974.

Why isn't the AIS coach involved as part of our national youth team system?

OK, so now it's time for a few suggestions.

Les Scheinflug does a great job at youth level but I would like to see him move into a more technical role while bringing in someone like Frank Farina, Davie Mitchell, Eddie Krncevic, Angie Postecoglou,



Eddie Thomson: will he come back to Australia as national teams' Technical Director?

stantly on the go (senior, Olympic, Under 20 and Under 17) there is more need for a co-ordinated campaign than ever.

Australia needs a Technical Director to look after the plotting of our

football knowledge as a background and who can assist our national coach.

We need neither a pen pusher nor a 'suit'.

The days of the smooth talkers is hopefully over.

Instead what we need is

Branko Culina, Steve O'Connor or John Kosmina as team coach - in a part time, as necessary, role (and they are all Aussies).

And in the likelihood that Raul Blanco will be a strong candidate for the national team job how about these names for a Technical Director, Eddie Thomson, Ron Smith or Frank Arok?

The beauty of all that is that we bring in one of our best young coaches to learn the ropes while setting up a proper system at the senior level.

Why do we have to import anyone to run our junior national teams, isn't there enough talent in Australia?

Of course there are other names too, and I am sure that our Readers' Letters will feature some of them in the coming weeks.

And the subject of Technical Director should get an airing too.

But we must make that step otherwise every time we lose a national coach it is a case of almost -going back to square one.

And couldn't the bosses at Soccer Australia use the time between now and the appointment of our next national coach to implement just such a system?

## Your WRITE

YOU CAN air your view on any subject relating to soccer by replying to *Inside Soccer* at

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You must include a day time telephone number for verification purposes, if necessary, and letters should be kept under 400 words.

All correspondence must include your name and address - although we will print letters under nom-de-plumes.

Letters on any football related subject are welcome but should reach us by Friday morning prior to print to reach the next deadline.

It is up to future officials to raise the standard even higher.

At the moment it has dropped somewhat.

Neil Johnston  
Figtree NSW

(Ed - maybe a few points of fact are in order.

1. David Hill's press conferences were a joke throughout the industry. Often he called them with just an hour's notice and on one famous occasion the media were notified 3-4 hours afterwards. No-one turned up to that one.

2. As a Chairman he was supposed to be acting in consort with his board which he often chose not to do.

3. The *World Cup* gave the game the profile although David helped with his own undoubted charisma -

but Sooty the Dog could have done the same in a World Cup double year.

4. Tertry Venables failed. We didn't make the World Cup finals, we were humbled by Brazil in the final of the Confeds Cup and were given a 6-0 caning by Croatia - with an Aussie playing for the opposition. Eddie Thomson was sufficiently well-respected by FIFA to be asked onto a technical panel at USA '94 and turned down a job at Glasgow Rangers before taking up one of the best paid jobs in club football. Venables, who I greatly admire as a football personality, had profile because he had

been coach of England - and they sacked him because he was a flop as well as being involved in some fairly dodgy dealings. And finally, David Hill took our game into near-bankruptcy. The ASF was trading insolvent when it was bailed out by a twelfth hour cheque from the NSW Amateurs.)

*Trumpets*

INSIDE Soccer is excellent.

It's very readable, the layout is good and the content top class.

The 'information/

⇒ Continued Page 5

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gossip' you provide is great.

I find it refreshing to read a publication for the NSL with a touch of British (which is of interest to us all) and more other information e.g. Olympics. I wish you every success.

Bill Sinclair  
Luddenham NSW

#### Oz Tel's

**Second Coming?**  
FOR SOME time now rumours have been circulating that Oz Tel was intent on a 'second coming', so to speak.

Mark Goldberg, the enigmatic owner of Crystal Palace, has now publicly indicated that this may indeed be the case.

Looking at Palace's less than impressive on-field performances it may be sooner rather than later.

As we all know Australian soccer is a long way from recovering from the disaster of Oz Tel's previous foray here.

Yet, in the best tradition of never give a sucker an even break, he is planning a new foray.

No doubt his number one disciple David Hill will be overjoyed to see his old soul mate return for an encore.

So will the media trivia department, certain players and the hospitality industry.

Interestingly since David Hill's resignation from Soccer Australia his "passion for soccer" has evaporated even faster than Soccer Australia's debt level rose during Hill's reign of three years.

A few predictions should Oz Tel's second coming eventuate;

1. As is always the way with Venables he will only last one or two years maximum before events take their course.

2. I think his real intention here will be to position himself for a plum coaching job in Asia such as national coach of China for the 2002 World Cup campaign.

In the end, when he inevitably departs Australia, you can bet your last dollar that Oz Tel and friends will be much better off for the experience.

It would also be nice to think that Australian soccer also benefitted but I wouldn't bet on it - not even with David Hill's money.

R Melor  
Bondi NSW

#### Raul & Manfred

YOUR article 'It's Only An Opinion' displayed good commonsense in preferring the FIFA option (with regards to WC qualification).

I fully agree with your arguments why the Asian Qualification route has no merit.

The only part I do not agree with is point two.

Raul Blanco is not the coach who can take Australia through to 2002 or any other Cup.

I have watched some

of his training sessions and found his method boring and outdated.

This was very obvious at the last New Zealand encounter.

If you look at some of the up and coming nations which qualified for the last World Cup finals they all had coaches with high credentials.

What are Raul Blanco's successes at world standard?

Sure, he speaks the language and may have contacts but the South American style of

football is going through some changes due to European influence and vice versa.

The article 'Croyden Kid' - I'd like to point out a misprint.

Manfred (Schaefer) and I played for Blacktown including one season for Parramatta as juniors before St George Budapest snapped him up.

Ted Lange  
Kellyville NSW



Second coming? David Hill can see the humour anyway

## CLUB PATROL

SYDNEY United have signed former utility player Ante Moric. Moric has been out of the game since he left Canberra Cosmos after a one-season stint in the capital last May.

WOLLONGONG youngster Paul Reid is enjoying a spell in the Wolves first team. Big things are expected from the classy kid who could well set his mark on the struggling side this season.

BREAKERS play Andrew Borghetto could make a quicker than expected return to first team duty. He has been out since Round 1 after breaking a leg against Sydney United but is due to full training in the next week or so.

GIPPSLAND'S Lachlan Armstrong looks almost certain to cut his stay at Falcons Park short and sign up with Premier League side Westvale.

BRISBANE is reeling from an extensive injury list; Andrew Packer (out for four weeks after stomach surgery), Andy Harper (four weeks with a hamstring injury), Matt Bell (five weeks with medial ligament damage) and Chay Hews (knee injury just one week) are all on the casualty list at the Strikers.

ADELAIDE SHARKS will be missing key player Alex Kuzmanovic for two weeks with a hamstring injury.

OLYMPIC players Adrian Cervinski and George Sorras both played in the Youth League last weekend after returning from injury.

CARLTON'S Olyroo Simon Colosimo is struggling to shake off a groin injury to be fit enough to play against South Korea.

# Blades

Blades

Blades

Blades





# Aloisi fears for Pompey fans

By John Curtis

Coventry City striker John Aloisi has apologised to Portsmouth fans for leaving Fratton Park on the cheap - and admits he fears for the future of the English first division soccer club.

The £1.5 million-rated Aloisi, who scored his first Premiership goal against Tottenham last weekend, moved to Highfield Road for a cut-price £650,000 two weeks ago to ease Pompey's financial problems.

But the Australian-born player is concerned about the long-term damage that will be suffered if Portsmouth continue to sell its major assets to get out of debt.

Aloisi, who had scored 17 goals this season before his move to the Sky Blues, said: "I still talk to people down there and the fans are not happy that the chairman is selling so many players.

"I feel so sorry for the supporters who were brilliant to me and I wanted the best for them.

"They were angry when I was sold - and going on the cheap did them no favours. But I had no other choice than to come to Coventry. The manager (Alan Ball) also had no say in the matter. He is also not happy and I really do fear for the future of the club now.

"It is one thing selling off the players to clear debts but they will not be able to afford to buy any more players - and what position will they be in then?"

## Slashing Sash

A NEW face in the Gippsland Falcons team against Northern Spirit was Sash Becvinovski.

The Victorian sharpshooter has been playing in the Victorian Premier League over the last few years after previous NSL stints with Gippsland and Wollongong United.

Last season Becvinovski, nicknamed Slashing Sash, nearly teamed up with the Canberra Cosmos as part of their bid to solve a chronic goal-scoring problem. However, the club would not meet Becvinovski's wage demands, which were about \$1,500 a week.

Now he has rejoined his former club which also has strikers Lachlan Armstrong, Marko Perinovic and Archie Thompson on its books.

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APPLICATIONS in writing should be sent to The Editor (details page 3).

Applications close January 10, 1998.

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# A memorable year for soccer - in French

By Mike Collett  
In London

Two Frenchmen named Aime and Zinedine encapsulated the A-Z of soccer in 1998.

Aime Jacquet defied almost endless criticism of his coaching methods and team selection to fashion France into World Cup winners.

Zinedine Zidane emerged as France's ultimate hero as his team beat Brazil 3-0 to win the World Cup final at the Stade de France on July 12.

Zidane scored two headers and later had his name emblazoned in lights on the Arc de Triomphe.

The French victory crowned the biggest-

sorts looking slow, sluggish and playing as if in a daze.

Brazil never looked remotely like winning the match and when Emmanuel Petit scored the third and final goal in the last minute, France's victory was complete.

That they achieved it without a potent strike force spoke volumes for both Jacquet and Zidane, who, apart from his suspension following his first round sending-off against Saudi Arabia, was an inspiration on the pitch.

Jacquet's team overcame their lack of firepower, and the temporary loss of Zidane for two matches, by pushing defenders and midfielders into attacking positions as often as

Defender Lilian Thuram scored his first international goals in the 2-1 win over Croatia in the semi-final, while centre-back Laurent Blanc scored the golden goal winner in the 1-0 quarter-final victory over Paraguay.

Blanc, one of France's outstanding players, was denied a place in the final after being sent off in the semifinal when Croatian defender Slaven Bilic over-reacted to a touch from Blanc, collapsing and holding his head as if he had been pole-axed.

His later apology was rejected by the Frenchman, but symbolised one of the negative aspects of the tournament which produced a record number

feign injury, but referees were too inconsistent, gullible and under pressure from FIFA, whose conflicting messages on how to control matches, merely made matters worse.

Although the World Cup did not produce one truly great match, there were some memorable moments and goals.

The goal of the tournament was scored by Denis Bergkamp in the last minute of the Netherlands' quarter-final against Argentina.

With the score at 1-1 Bergkamp collected a lofted 70-metre pass from Frank de Boer.

He controlled the ball with one touch, turned inside the defender with a second and volleyed it home

ever World Cup of 32 teams and inspired celebrations that had not been seen in the country since the end of World War Two.

Apart from France's success, the World Cup also provided the year's greatest soccer mystery after Ronaldo's lethargic performance in the most one-sided World Cup final of all time.

After apparently suffering a seizure the night before the final, he was taken to hospital and his name left off the team sheet for the game.

But with less than an hour to go before kickoff, Ronaldo arrived at the stadium and after major disagreements between the coaching staff, medical staff and senior players, the striker was named in the starting line-up.

An indication something was wrong came when Brazil failed to show for their pre-match warm-up, and it was clear almost from the first whistle that Ronaldo was completely out of

possible, and as a result, the goals were spread around the team.

of 22 sendings off and 257 cautions.

Not only were players too quick to dive and

with his third.

Argentina were also the victims of an audacious goal





scored against them in the second round by England teenager Michael Owen who ran through the defence to strike home after a run and shot of breathtaking skill.

After 120 minutes of unrelenting drama which saw both teams hold the lead and England reduced to 10 men just after halftime when David Beckham was sent off, the match finished 2-2.

Argentina won 4-3

Egypt, who lifted the African Nations Cup in February, failed to qualify for the World Cup, while runners-up South Africa were out of their depth in France.

Nigeria topped their group but crashed to earth in the second round to leave Africa still off the pace as new FIFA president Sepp Blatter argues its case to host the 2006 World Cup.

Blatter, 62, suc-

Johansson and Blatter have been battling to steer the ever-expanding global game forward without it being destroyed by a totally unworkable fixture list and sheer greed from the leading clubs and players.

It is not yet clear whether they will succeed.

Once the World Cup was over, UEFA, with FIFA's backing, had to battle hard to see off the threat of a rival

point.

It is a worrying trend for the future.

But in this year of profound change, there were two significant successes that at least acknowledged the past.

Real Madrid, who set European soccer alight with their five successive European Cup wins in the 1950s and early 1960s, were crowned European champions for the first time in

## A worrying trend for the future - soccer is reaching saturation point

on penalties to secure a famous victory.

While the tournament saw a change in order of at the top with the emergence of France and Croatia and the eclipse of an aging German side and the end of Brazil's reign as world champions, Europe still dominated.

The continent that produced seven of the eight quarter-finalists in 1994 had six in the

last eight this time as Africa again failed to mount any sort of challenge.

ceded Brazilian Joao Havelange, 20 years his senior, who had been president of the world governing body for 24 years.

The Swiss, Havelange's long-time deputy, won a fierce election battle against UEFA's 68-year-old Swedish president Lennart Johansson for the right to take soccer into the new millennium.

While the World Cup provided most of the on-field drama, administrators such as

European Super League to its own Champions' League.

UEFA have responded with an expanded Champions' League offering tens of millions of dollars in prize money starting next year.

With the 2000 European championships just over the horizon and Blatter keen on the continuation of the largely meaningless

Confederations' Cup tournament for confederation winners, soccer is reaching saturation

32 years when they beat Juventus 1-0 in the final in Amsterdam.

And in England, Arsenal won the daunting Cup and League Double for the second time in their history.

Their success in May owed much to the tactical ingenuity of their French coach Arsene Wenger, who

made his own contribution to a memorable French soccer year.

## Muscy back in the good books

Australian soccer international Kevin Muscat hit a sensational 88th minute winner to sink second-placed Ipswich 1-0 in a mid-week game last week and give Wolves their first win in six first division matches.

A largely disappointing clash seemed certain to finish goalless until Muscat grabbed the headlines for the home side, a fortnight after the bad publicity that came his way following his horror tackle on Craig Bellamy during the draw with Ipswich's East Anglian rival Norwich.

This time it was a good news day for the player, who was returning after missing one game through suspension and a second through illness.

Playing at left-back instead of in his usual role on the right - a



result of Wolves' acute selection problems - Muscat moved inside following a throw-in on the left to unleash a magnificent swerving 30-yarder that deceived England Under-21 keeper Richard Wright and flew over his head into the roof of the net.

It was a stunning strike and gave Wolves their first win since their appointment of Colin Lee as manager on a permanent basis over a month ago.

Ipswich manager George Burley graciously gave credit to

Wolves defender Kevin Muscat for the sensational last minute goal that weakened his side's hold on second place.

Ipswich, previously beaten only once away in the league and proud holders of 15 clean sheets, were within a few seconds of a goalless Molineux draw until Muscat struck from 30 yards.

"It was a goal in a million," Burley said.

"Credit to the player for that. Richard Wright had no chance."

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## Talking Soccer with Carlton S.C.'s SEAN DOUGLAS

Who said footballers were all brawn and no brain?! My topic this week tries to dispel the myth that we all dropped out of school after kindergarten to pursue balls for a living.

We're all slowly coming out of the closet and professing to our worst nightmares. No, this is not about what we get up to in the showers, it's about something far worse.

Players are finally confessing to being... wait for it...computer nerds! Well, ok, we're not quite Bill Gates material, but what do laptops and home computers have to do with footy?

You could use them to analyse the latest stats from your performance last week, or work out the likely finals teams for this season.

But that'd put you to sleep quicker than watching Arsenal during the 80's.

We, the players, use them to prepare for the next stage of our ca-

reers.

Yes, we're being responsible and thinking of life after soccer.

How do we do this?

By playing computer games of course! But

not just any old games. Soccer management games.

We're all secretly training and planning to become the next Eddie Krncevic or

Frank Farina.

When Andy Vlahos of Carlton brings his laptop on interstate trips and all the lads gather round to guide Scunthorpe Utd to the



Premiership title, we're planning for the future.

What better way to cut your teeth in coaching than playing one of the many ultra detailed management simulations around.

I'm sure Lou Sticca and Tony Labbozzetta would be impressed by a resume that included the fact that you'd coached Liverpool to European Cup success!

So what games do the budding coaches recommend?

Andy is currently engrossed in coaching Inter Milan to Serie A glory with "Championship Manager 97/98".

Personally I love the new release "FA Premier League Manager 99".

Whatever your poison - make sure you check these "games" out.

You never know, you could end up coaching your favourite Ericsson Cup side next season!



## Harry Cool urged to beat his man



LEEDS United manager David O'Leary wants more of the same from Harry Kewell after the Australian played a major part in high-flying Leeds' impressive 3-0 Boxing Day Premier League win at Newcastle.

Kewell scored the first and his shot led to the second killer goal at St James' Park as his pace proved too hot for the Magpies to handle.

But manager O'Leary was still far from happy with the 20-year-old Soccerroo striker, who has found the back of the net just six times this term.

"I was disappointed with how he played against Newcastle in the first half - I wanted him to do more - but he did things in the second half which I was very happy with," said O'Leary.

"For the second goal he was one on one with the defender and he beat him."

"I don't want him to isolate a defender and pass the ball."

"I want him to take the defender on and if he fails, that's fine."

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inside  
**SOCCER**



# They Still Call Australia Home DANIEL ALLSOPP

By Andrew Davis

IF YOU EVER want to read a story about the heights and depths of football then the footballing memoirs of one Daniel Allsopp in ten years time should make interesting reading.

It is along the lines of the more well known story of Vince Grella, although in Grella's case it was on the bench for Carlton straight into Serie A side Empoli.

For Allsopp it was seemingly not being wanted by Carlton to scoring major goals for

"Life as a professional player in England is good but it is very full on as well," Allsopp says.

"For example one week I was involved in four games.

"However it is very rewarding - so many dreams are coming true when I play at places like Maine Road every week.

"They are places I have dreamed of all my life.

"Manchester itself is a very liveable place and I am happy here."

Certainly for some players the surrounds of Manchester would

Australia who certainly continue to be one of the biggest, and most vocal, UK supporters groups Down Under.

It is said in Manchester itself that 66% of the population supports City over United and if that is the case then their recent relegations must have been heart-breaking.

Daniel Allsopp walked into a side that had already suffered at the hands of the relegation monster.

For him it was not self doubt or a sense of awe, instead he went out and made the first

could sign me and I could enter the big time, and this all took a while."

Perhaps that is the greatest credit of all this young Australian representative player should take from his experience.

Whilst City were getting rid of internationals like Rossler and Kinkladze because there wage bill was so large they still decided on young Daniel as potential for the future.

Any young local player would be proud but for a player to come from the other

"Overall I want to have a long and successful career.

"As for the possibility of a club verses country dilemma, well that would be a very difficult situation but I have not been faced with it yet.

"My advice to others wanting to play football in Europe?

"Be prepared to

work very hard, be persistent and be prepared to be away from home for a long time."

Perhaps looking upon Daniel's experience we could add to that never give up, even when things look lost.

A possible way of putting that is that

bumps in the road are mountains you see when you take your eye off the goal.

Daniel Allsopp went from one Blues side in Australia to a much bigger one in England, but never took his eye off the goals he has set himself.

And it isn't only soccer players who could learn from that.

**"I am looking to secure myself at Manchester City and in England, I want to help City gain promotion this season and overall I want to have a long and successful career."**

Manchester City in England's Nationwide League.

In many people's eyes such a story would mean you would be out to prove a few people wrong back in Australia, but not so for Daniel.

"I am not trying to prove anything," he says, "people will have their own opinions and I just worry about what I am doing."

Perhaps such an attitude could be adopted by some players today who wonder why their playing careers are going nowhere.

Certainly the lifestyle and football is very different.

Whilst Carlton were going down the full time path it pales into insignificance when you compare it to overseas, and specially the hectic schedule of the UK.

be off-putting, but Daniel turns it all into a positive as he lives out his dream to play football at the highest level.

Realistically, though, Manchester City is nowhere near the level their fans expect them to be playing at.

This puts pressure on the players and manager Joe Royle to perform and in promotion out of the second division.

"We do feel the spectators expectations at times but the players want to go up just as much as anyone associated with the club," the Aussie says.

"The fans can be demanding but their support is phenomenal so you can not have it both ways."

Right throughout the world the Manchester City lot stay faithful not least exemplified by Bill Chapman and the Aussie Blues in

team squad and when he got on the field he put a few important goals away for his side.

It had been a huge step up but one which Daniel seemed to make with relative ease.

However this instant success should have dumped more pressure on his young shoulders, but this was not the case.

"The coaching staff continue to tell me how far I have come in such a little period of time," he says, "so their attitude is that anything I do is a bonus for the time being."

"It was made difficult for me to break into the City side at the beginning as City had not wanted to sign anyone."

"They were actually in the midst of clearing out an oversized squad."

"They had to be really sure before they

side of the world and overcome all the local bias against foreign players is truly a magnificent achievement.

Overall Allsopp has found encouragement from a very genuine man, his manager Joe Royle and he continues to hold realistic ambitions despite his career rocketing so high in such a short period of time.

"Joe Royle is firstly a very nice man, but he is also teaching me a lot through his experience as a player and a manager," Allsopp says.

"He is always very positive."

"Personally I am looking to secure myself at Manchester City and in England."

"I want to help City gain promotion this season."



## SOCCER STRIKE IN GREECE

Greek first, second and third division soccer matches will not be played until January 10 at the earliest after the clubs' union decided to strike to claim unpaid money from state pools.

"The matches will resume on January 10 if, in the meantime, the state pays us about one million dollars in arrears. If not the strike will become indefinite," an official from the Association of Professional Football Clubs (EPAE) has said.

EPAE claims that OPAP, the state body which runs the soccer pools, owes it the sum from last season.

Apart from the owed money EPAE wants more state subsidies as ticket sales have dropped in the past few months because of fan violence and allegations of corruption in first division matches.

But there might be no quick solution to the problem.

Sports under-secretary Andreas Fouras has said EPAE's claims were not logical and that "it will not be

the end of the world if there is no soccer for a few weeks."

The strike threat is the latest in a series of troubles to hit the domestic game.

A few weeks ago PAOK Salonica fans blocked Greece's main north-south highway for five hours in protest at a five-match home ban imposed for hooligan trouble during the recent league game against Olympiakos.

The following day another group of PAOK fans protested against the TV channel which had broadcast the film of the rioting POAK fans.

Greece has always been a popular destination for Australian soccer players and currently Mike Panopoulos (Aris), Peter Lahanas (Appollon), Joe Palatsides (PAOK) and Mike Valkanis (Iraklis) are playing professionally there.

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# Hibernian's Phantom Aussie

*Stuart Lovell is listed as an 'Aussie Abroad' but hasn't been in Sydney since he was four*

By Fred Legget

PICK UP any soccer publication, check out the 'Aussies Abroad' column and the name Stuart Lovell will appear.

Truth is though, that although this 'Aussie Abroad' was in fact born in Sydney, he hasn't set foot in Australia since he was four years old!!

Said Lovell, who is currently playing with table topping, first division Scottish side Hibernian: "Yes, I was actually born in Sydney, but left Australia when I was about four.

"My mother is Scottish and met my London born father in America, they got married in Canada, and my Dad's work took him to Australia, and that's when I came along!

"I've lived most of my life around High Wycombe, Oxford or Reading in England, and most people think I'm English, but I'm still proud of my Australian connection."

And it was that Australian connection which nearly saw the 26 year old Edinburgh based striker make his debut in a Socceroo shirt a few years back.

Explained Stuart: "About 3 years ago, completely out of the blue,

Reading received a fax from Soccer Australia advising of their interest in me.

"This was followed up by a phone call from the then Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson, who invited me to a meeting to discuss whether I was interested in playing for the Socceros.

"I had done well in the previous two seasons at Reading and the prospect of playing for Australia really excited me, as it still does, so I agreed to meet Eddie and David Hill in a London hotel.

"I went off to the meeting with fellow Aussie team mate Andy Bernal, and we met up with Zelko Kalac who was with Leicester at the time, and Steve Corica.

"Eddie explained that he wanted all of us to be involved with some friendly games he was planning to arrange then, and everything looked bright for the future.

"Unfortunately, two weeks later I suffered a nasty tear to my hamstring and that was the last I heard of any possible Socceroo call up.

"I guess there was always the question in the back of my mind as to whether I was good enough to play for the national side, but I'd still love to give it a try,



Stuart Lovell: hoping that an expected promotion to Scotland's Premier League will bring him a Socceroo call-up

and all I can do is keep playing away and hope that the new coach, when he is appointed, comes and takes a look at me.

"There were some raised eyebrows when I decided to leave Reading to head to Edinburgh to play for Hibs who had just been relegated from Scotland's Premier Division, but I knew that Hibs were a big club,

too big to be out of the Premier Division, and that it was almost certain that they would only be in Division one for a single season."

Hibs are one of the biggest supported clubs in Scotland and only the other week against Ayr United we had over 14,000 people watching us, despite wind and driving rain."

Lovell, has found the net regularly for Hibs this season despite being asked to play in more of a midfield role than he has been used to.

Said Lovell: "I was signed to play up front and started off in a fairly orthodox striking role.

"However, there were too many high balls being pumped in for my liking

and I asked the gaffer if I could be used in a role that more suited my strengths.

"He agreed, went out and bought a big Finnish striker called Mixu Pateilainen, and moved me into more of a free role behind the front two strikers.

"Big Mixu has been outstanding and I'm really enjoying it at present, although once promotion comes we probably won't be able to persist with the same style as there won't be the same amount of time on the ball.

"I guess it is difficult to convince an international coach to come and take a look at you when he reads that you are not playing in the top league in Scotland, but next year we will be up

there against the likes of Rangers and Celtic again, and all I can do is keep my fingers crossed and hope I play well enough to merit consideration."

Lovell looks certain to get his chance to play in Scotland's Premier Division next season as Hibs go into the New Year six points above their nearest rivals, and are odds on with bookmakers to return to the top flight.

FOOTNOTE: Other Aussies playing in Scotland include Tony Vidmar (Glasgow Rangers) and Richard Watson (Stranraer) while Canberra Cosmos's former defender Gordon Hunter is at Premier League club Dundee.

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# Newcastle's Quiet Achiever

By Tony Moffitt

*BREAKERS defender, Andy Roberts, is a club man, and the consummate footballer. He's also modest. Perhaps too modest.*

As far as his own accomplishments are concerned you'll never hear him putting his feats in his mouth.

He'd rather deflect credit to his team mates, coaching staff and the support of his wife, Marguerite.

Better still, he'd rather let his performances on the pitch speak for themselves.

But, being a defender, no amount of fine play will ever attract the headlines or media attention of a brilliant goal or a thrilling save.

Being a defender means an hour and a half of hard work and very little praise.

Not that Andy's bothered.

"I'm playing for the Breakers, not fifteen minutes of fame," the modest veteran of 137 games explains.

"When I go out onto the park I'm putting my own reputation on the line.

"I set myself standards -

levels of achievement.

"All professional footballers do."

At 28, Andy is far from approaching the twilight of an already impressive career.

With the Breakers since their inception, apart from a season in Canberra with the Cosmos last year, Andy's sights are firmly set on many more years of soccer before he hangs up the boots for the last time.

"We enjoyed our time in Canberra but to be honest I knew all along that sooner or later I'd be back in town," said Roberts.

"Just now I'm nowhere near ready to retire.

"I'm training hard, I'm happy with my fitness level, and most of all I'm still motivated by the challenge."

Roberts is often described as a 'speedster' and it's a label he's comfortable with.

His style of football at the back of the Breakers line is indicative of how the image of a defender has changed from days long gone when the full-back was given the single mis-

sion of hefting the ball as far downfield as possible.

His speed and agility are now models used by other coaches.

"I guess I'm known for that part of my game," he admitted, "but I see myself as more than just fast.

"I play with a never-say-die attitude, I won't give up.

"It's a strong trait right through the Breakers."

The Newcastle Breakers train every night and Andy Roberts philosophy to the hard, monotonous hours on the practice park are reflective of his approach to football.

"The way you train is the way you play," he says.

"You can't be a professional for ninety minutes a week."

In a career that started at the Australian Institute of Sport with fellow graduates like Ned Zelic and Steve Horvat, Roberts has many stand-out memories, the fondest being a match in which the Breakers played a full-strength Australia team in '92.

"At the time the Socceroos were preparing for

the World Cup campaign.

They came to Newcastle and we won 3-1," Roberts reflects, and then admits with genuine modesty that he was named Man of the Match.

The Breakers are fortunate to have Andy Roberts.

In a team of relative youngsters, a man with experience at the back is essential.

It's even better when that man has a professional attitude and the kind of determination that can help mould a team's character.

But perhaps the final words should go to someone who knows the resilient defender better than most.

"Andy is totally committed to his football and his club," says wife Marguerite.

"He's the quiet achiever with a determination to play the game to the very best of his ability - every time.

"That's what makes Andy Roberts a great footballer."



## Mori loses record

ADELAIDE City striker Damian Mori might have lost the world record he established two seasons ago when he scored almost directly from kick off.

Mori's 3.8 second strike against Sydney United's John Perosh earned him a place in the record books but that sensational start has just been overtaken.

Ricardo Oliveira of Uruguayan regional club Rio Negro scored his goal after just 2.5 seconds of play.

It is likely, however that Mori will maintain his place in the record books as the fastest goal by a professional player.



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Carlton

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Goals Scored: 1

Tansell BASER

Defender

South Melbourne

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: BRZ(s), BRZ, NZ, NZ,

CHL, ARG, CHN

Total Games: 9

Goals Scored: 0

Con BLATSIS

Midfielder

South Melbourne

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ, NZ,

NZ

Total Games: 5

Goals Scored: 0

Raphael BOVE

Defender

Sydney Olympic

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 0

Marco BRESCIANO

Midfielder

Carlton

1998: ARG, CHN, CHN

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 0

Jacob BURNS

Forward

Sydney United

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ(s),

NZ, NZ, CHL, ARG, CHN(s),

CHN

Total Games: 9

Goals Scored: 0

Christian CARE

Midfielder

Marconi Fairfield

1998: BRZ(s), BRZ(s), BRZ

(s), CHL(s)

Total Games: 4

Goals Scored: 0

Nick CARLE

Forward

Sydney Olympic

1998: BRZ, BRZ(s), NZ\*,

CHL(s), ARG(s)

Total Games: 5

Goals Scored: 1

Simon COLOSIMO

Sweeper/Midfielder

Carlton

1997: SAF(s), SAF

1998: BRZ, BRZ

Total Games: 4

Goals Scored: 0

Jason CULINA

Forward

Sydney United

1998: BRZ(s), BRZ(s), BRZ,

NZ, NZ, CHN, CHN(s)

Total Games: 7

Goals Scored: 0

Michael CURCIJA

Forward

South Melbourne

1997: SAF(s)

1998: BRZ(s)\*, BRZ(s)\*,

BRZ, NZ, NZ\*, NZ, CHL,

ARG, CHN, CHN\*

Total Games: 11

Goals Scored: 4

Bill DAMIANOS

Defender

South Melbourne

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ(s),

NZ, NZ, NZ

Total Games: 8

Goals Scored: 0

Joe DIDULICA

Goalkeeper

Melbourne Knights

1998: CHL, ARG

Total Games: 2

Goals Conceded: 1

Brett EMERTON

Midfielder

Sydney Olympic

1997: SAF\*, SAF

1998: BRZ\*, BRZ, BRZ, NZ,

NZ\*, NZ\*, CHL\*, ARG, CHN

Total Games: 11

Goals Scored: 5

Buddy FARAH

Defender

Marconi Fairfield

1997: SAF

Total Games: 1

Goals Scored: 0

Hayden FOXE

Sweeper

Sanfrece Hiroshima JAP

1998: CHN, CHN\*\*

Total Games: 2

Goals Scored: 2

Michael GARCIA

Defender

Perth Glory

1998: CHN

Total Games: 1

Goals Scored: 0

Carlos GONZALEZ

Midfielder

Sydney Olympic

1997: SAF\*, SAF

1998: CHN(s), CHN

Total Games: 4

Goals Scored: 1

Vince GRELLA

Midfielder

Carlton

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ

Total Games: 5

Goals Scored: 0

Glen KOLPAK

Forward

Brisbane Strikers

1998: NZ\*

Total Games: 1

Goals Scored: 0

Stephen LAYBUTT

Defender

Brisbane Strikers

1998: BRZ, NZ, NZ

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 0

Andrew McDERMOTT

Defender

West Bromwich Albion ENG

1998: NZ, NZ

Total Games: 2

Goals Scored: 0

Danny MILOSEVIC

Goalkeeper

Perth Glory

1998: BRZ, BRZ, BRZ, NZ,

NZ, CHN, CHN

Total Games: 7

Goals Conceded: 8

Dragi NASTEVSKI

Midfielder

Melbourne Knights

1998: BRZ(s), NZ, NZ, NZ,

CHL, ARG, CHN(s)

Total Games: 8

Goals Scored: 0

Nick RIZZO

Forward

Liverpool ENG

1998: BRZ, BRZ\*, BRZ

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 1

Kosta SALAPASIDIS

Forward

Wollongong City

1997: SAF, SAF\*

1998: CHN

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 1

Sebastian SINOZIC

Defender

Wollongong City

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: NZ, NZ, NZ, CHL,

ARG, CHN, CHN

Total Games: 9

Goals Scored: 0

Noel SPENCER

Midfielder

Wollongong City

1998: NZ

Total Games: 1

Goals Scored: 0

Mile STERJOVSKI

Forward

Sydney United

1998: CHL(s)

Total Games: 1

Goals Scored: 0

Zeljko SUSA

Midfielder

Melbourne Knights

1998: NZ\*, NZ, CHL(R),

ARG, CHN(s), CHN

Total Games: 6

Goals Scored: 1

Yane TALCEVSKI

Forward

Sydney United

1997: SAF(s), SAF(s)

Total Games: 2

Goals Scored: 0

Archie THOMPSON

Forward

Gippsland Falcons

1998: BRZ, BRZ(s), NZ

Total Games: 3

Goals Scored: 0

Andy VARGAS

Forward

Carlton

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: CHL, ARG, CHN(s),

CHN(s)

Total Games: 6

Goals Scored: 0

Kasey WEHRMAN

Midfielder

Brisbane Strikers

1998: CHL, ARG, CHN,

CHN

Total Games: 4

Goals Scored: 0

Clayton ZANE

Forward

Newcastle Breakers

1998: BRZ, BRZ\*, BRZ\*\*,

NZ, NZ\*

Total Games: 5

Goals Scored: 4

Ivan ZELIC

Sweeper/Defender

Sydney Olympic

1997: SAF, SAF

Canberra Cosmos

1998: NZ, NZ, ARG, CHN,

CHN, CHL, ARG

Total Games: 9

Goals Scored: 0

Peter ZOIS

Goalkeeper

South Melbourne

1997: SAF, SAF

1998: NZ

Total Games: 3

Goals Conceded: 3

# The Olympic Challenge continues

With Bruce Campbell

AUSTRALIA Olympic coach Raul Blanco has used no less 37 players in the 12 full Under 23 internationals played as he takes his country on the Road To Sydney. That number alone would suggest that Blanco is far from decided on his final squad make-up.

Realistically, he has still some fourteen months or so to make up that final tally and by March or April next year must really start to concentrate on at least a whittled down squad of 30 players.

Most of the players used to date, and that does not include the many others who have figured in train-on camps or had a run in club challenges, are Australia based. Blanco has hinted strongly that the bulk of his final squad will be made up of overseas based Australians - with as many as 17 to come into his plans.

Hayden Foxe, the Sanfrece youngster, played well enough

against China to be ticked for further consideration. Likewise goalie Peter Zois who is Holland with NAC Breda is a likely pencil in. Zois is now back in Melbourne for a short break and it would seem likely that Blanco will name him in the squad for the South Korea matches which will be announced this week.

Near certainties are likely to be Bill Damianos, Simon Colosimo (if fit), Marco Bresciano, Brett Emerton and Michael Curcija. But the Aussie coach has worries with the rest of his squad. Poor mid-field play against China was made less noticeable by the brilliance of Foxe.

Blanco is likely to give another chance to Sydney Olympic's Jason Culina who must do something in the Korean games to warrant later inclusion. Against China he was less than dominant but is an exceptionally talented young-

ster.

Likewise Ivan Zelic has been a big disappointment of late and seems to have struggled since breaking an ankle in an Olyroo challenge against Canberra Rockets.

One fringe player who is bang on form is Sydney United's goal-grabber Mile Sterjovski who seems to be coming to form just at the right time

Both games against South Korea present Victorian fans a chance of seeing the Olyroos in action.

Argentina and Nigeria will also tour Australia in 1999 and the Olyroos will play in Europe as well, likely at the end of the NSL.

It would come as no surprise if Blanco does not start the serious business as early as the end of this month, with this being the last chance for many players to show some international form.

## THE ROAD TO SYDNEY 2000

1997	July	SOUTH AFRICA	WON	2-0
		SOUTH AFRICA	LOST	2-3
		Mount Gravatt	WON	2-1
		Queensland Youth	WON	1-0
1998	Aug	Canberra Rockets Youth	WON	5-1
	Jan	Australian Institute of Sport	WON	3-0
		Canberra Cosmos	LOST	1-0
		Canberra Rockets Senior	WON	4-2
	Feb	Carlton Youth	WON	2-0
	March	BRAZIL	WON	2-1
		BRAZIL	WON	3-2
		BRAZIL	WON	2-1
	May	Australian Institute of Sport	WON	3-1
	June	NEW ZEALAND	WON	1-0
		NEW ZEALAND	WON	2-0
		NEW ZEALAND	WON	4-0
	July	San Lorenzo ARG	WON	1-0
		'Maccabi' ARG	WON	10-0
		Universidad Catolica CHL	LOST	0-1
		CHILE	DREW	1-1
		Audax Italiano CHL	WON	5-1
		ARGENTINA	WON	1-0
	Sept	Wollongong City	LOST	0-1
	Nov	CHINA	LOST	0-1
		CHINA	DREW	3-3

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**Kick Off 7.30pm**



## **MATCH 2:**

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**Bob Jane Stadium, South Melbourne**

**Kick Off 7.30pm**

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# South Melbourne's title bid has just begun

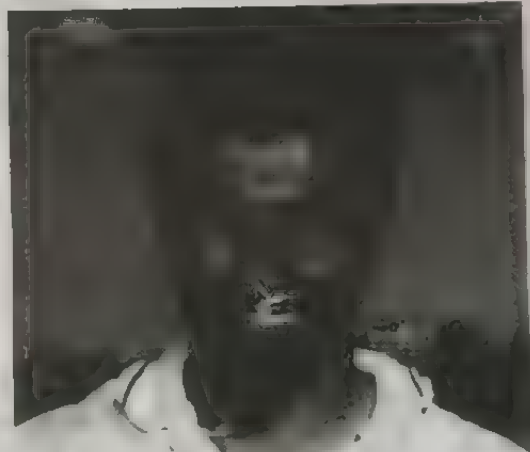
By Paul Gough

REIGNING national soccer league champion South Melbourne may have taken 12 weeks to return to the top of the table but it is about to find out that staying there is just as difficult as getting there.

South has spent the bulk of the season adrift of early pacesetter Perth Glory but took advantage of the Western Australian club having the bye in Round 12 to jump ahead by one point following a hard fought 1-0 win in Brisbane.

Coach Angie Postecoglou knows the hard work started from Sunday's home game against Sydney United if the club is to win back-to-back titles for the first time.

"It has taken us 12 weeks to get to the top but the boys must remain focussed if they



Blues coach Ange Postecoglou

want to stay there," he said.

While South may have lost just one home game in two seasons, the Lakesiders had to endure 35-degree heat in Brisbane the previous week as they battled to break down a struggling Strikers.

South scraped home thanks to an 89th minute winner from skipper Paul Trimboli and Postecoglou admitted his

players were exhausted after that game.

"It is a concern," he said of the possible after-effects before going into the match against Sydney United.

"Some of them lost two or three kilograms during the week after playing in Brisbane but we monitored them closely and there were no signs of lethargy."

Lozanovski returned to the South line-up fresh following a two week suspension.



## Bosnich now a free man

Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich is reportedly set to enter talks with Italian Serie A club Roma.

Bosnich's agents have arranged meetings with Roma bosses according to England's *The Daily Mail*.

The Aston Villa keeper is seeking terms of around £40,000 a week when he leaves the Premiership club on a free transfer.

Under the historic Bosman ruling, Bosnich is one of many quality players who

can take advantage of new transfer rules which apply from January 1.

His contract with Villa expires on July 1 but he is now officially free to negotiate and sign for anyone he chooses.

However, he will not be able to sign even a pre-contract deal with a new club until he proves his fitness after a shoulder injury which has sidelined him for over two months.

## Zidane gathers award trifecta

Zinedine Zidane picked up another award tonight when he was named World Player of the Year by the readers of English magazine *Football World*.

France's Zidane, who was named the European Footballer of the Year last week and World Footballer of the Year by *World Soccer* magazine, polled 37 per cent of readers' votes in the magazine's first ever award list.

Gabriel Batistuta of Argentina was runner-up with 29 per cent, with Italy's Alessandro Del Piero third with 17 per cent.

Brazilian striker Ronaldo polled a disappointing nine per cent to finish fourth.

Surprisingly, *Football World's* readers voted Croatia as Team of the Year.

They polled 30 per cent of the votes ahead of world champion France who gathered 28 per cent.

Miroslav Blazevic of Croatia was named Coach of the Year while Michael Owen of England won the Young Player of the Year award.



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# The deadline for World Cup bids has passed and the **WAR OF WORDS** **HAS STARTED**

From Agencies

SEVEN COUNTRIES have now entered the race to stage the 2006 World Cup Finals of soccer before the deadline for official bids closed on New Year's Eve.

South Africa, who officially entered their bid on December 14, became the seventh and final entrant along with Brazil, England, Egypt, Germany, Ghana and Morocco. Danny Jordaan, the chief executive of the South African bid confirmed his nation's bid had been sent to FIFA two weeks ago.

Speaking from a beach in Port Elizabeth where he was spending the Christmas and New Year holiday, Jordaan said: "Our documents were registered with FIFA on December 14 and we hope to make a formal presentation to FIFA at the Soccer Expo meeting in Cannes in January."

Morocco, who unsuccessfully bid for the 1994 and 1998 finals, added their name to the list earlier last month.

The other countries all submitted their official bids in November.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter has repeatedly advocated the 2006 finals being staged in Africa for the first time if all the conditions for hosting the tournament - stadium facilities, transportation, telecommunications, security and hotels - can be met.

The first deadline for 2006 competition was December 31 when the official declaration of intents must be lodged with FIFA in Zurich.

The deadline for a formal written commitment to bid for the tournament is April 1.

FIFA inspections

will be completed by January 31, 2000, with the decision being made by the Executive Committee in March 2000.

And South Africa has gone on the offensive today after officially entering the race to stage the 2006 World Cup.

"We have more than enough world-class stadia for the event and superb road, rail and air links," Jordaan boasted.

The former history lecturer dismissed claims from some rivals that a high crime rate makes the country unfit to host the quadrennial international football showpiece.

"We hosted the 1995 Rugby World Cup, the 1996 African Nations Cup and the 1998 Athletics World Cup without incident and are constantly gaining ground against organised crime," he stressed.

Jordaan criticised those who claim Africa will not be ready by 2006, saying there were more flights from Johannesburg to Cape Town than from London to Manchester.

"Europe wants to determine when they are ready and when we are ready. They are not entitled to decide when we are ready. We have met the requirements to host the World Cup," Jordaan said.

South Africa has three world-class venues in Johannesburg, the 80,000-seat First National Bank Stadium, the slightly smaller Ellis Park and the 40,000-capacity Johannesburg Stadium.

There are also World Cup-standard grounds in the coastal cities of Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, and Bloemfontein and Pre-

## South Africa edges in front as 2006 host nation

toria.

All meet the minimum capacity of 40,000 seats for the World Cup.

Brazil, Egypt, England, Ghana, Germany and Morocco are the other contenders.

England's campaign director for the 2006 World Cup bid believes a "lack of enthusiasm" could undermine a rival bid from Germany.

German World Cup legend Franz Beckenbauer claimed earlier this week that Brazil pose a greater threat to his country's hopes of staging the tournament than England.

But England's bid supremo Alec McGivvan returned fire when he maintained that Germany "envy" the support given to the bid by the British government.

"There has been evidence of a lack of enthusiasm among the German community, and indeed the German government in the past," he said.

"I think one of the things that the Germans have openly envied has been the support we have had from our own British government for the bid we are putting forward."

And McGivvan believes that Africa, like England, will have a strong emotional pull when FIFA come to select the host nation.

"I think many people recognise that Africa as a continent deserve to host the World Cup because they have never had it before," he said.

"The question is when will an African candidate be ready to take on what is a huge logistical exercise?"

"FIFA have been at great pains to stress that there are very strict terms and conditions which have to be met by any would-be host."

"Certainly emotionally there is some support for South Africa because their continent has never had it before."

"That is something we have to overcome."

"Fortunately we have a very strong emotional case as the home of football, too, and a great success story in English football with the Premier League and so on."

"People would like to come here and I think we combine with our emotional case a very strong rational organisational ability as well."

McGivvan admits he is concerned by the current problems at the Football Association but feels they will be forgotten when FIFA come to make their decision.

FA chief executive Graham Kelly resigned and Keith Wiseman's position as chairman remains under threat after a vote of no-confidence by the executive committee for authorising a £3.2million grant to the FA of Wales.

McGivvan told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I can understand at the moment why people think this is a major issue."

But he added: "I

honestly don't think in 15 months' time, when FIFA make the decision, it will be an issue at all."

"Long before then we will have a new chief executive and maybe the chairmanship will have changed hands."

"But these aren't really central issues for FIFA's decision on the World Cup."

"They want to choose the best venue with the best facilities, and we think we are that venue."

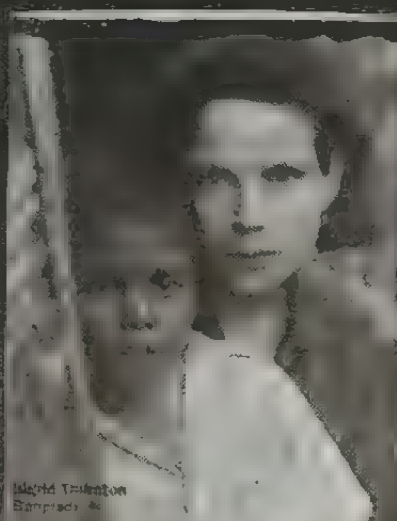
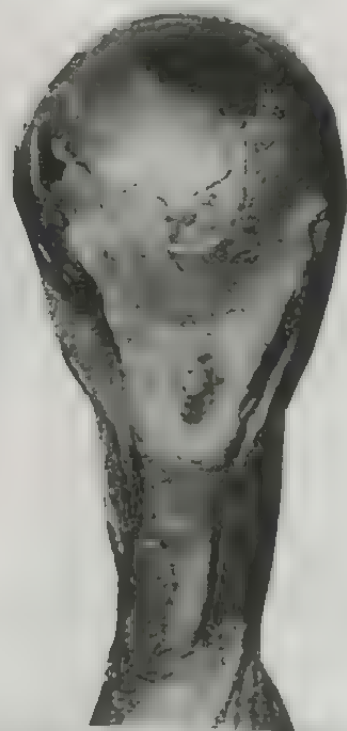
Meanwhile Danny Jordaan, chief executive of South Africa's bid committee, has insisted his country would remain unaffected by mud-slinging as the bidding heats up.

"England is a contending nation and therefore it is the nature of the campaign that we should expect criticism from England, they would hardly be expected to praise us," he told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"But we are confident that we have a formidable case."

"It is recognised by many of the international guests that come to our country that we will be there in the end."

"Together with the fact that our view is being shared by many people inside FIFA - that it is Africa's turn, 2006 must be the tournament that goes to the African continent, and that we do have the infrastructure, and the capacity to add a new and refreshing dimension to the World Cup."



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### Miura to replace Viduka

Japanese striker Kazuyoshi Miura signed an 18 month contract with Croatia Zagreb on Tuesday, a club spokesman said.

"He has passed all medical tests and we signed him. We expect this to be a great marketing move - a Japanese

television station has already put in a request to cover all our matches," spokesman Goran Bradic told *Inside Soccer*.

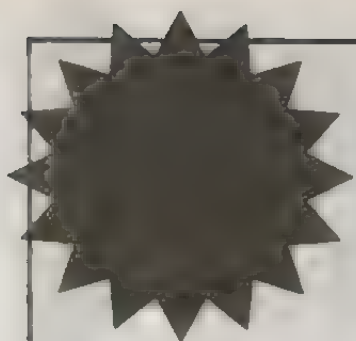
He declined to reveal the financial terms of the deal although daily newspaper Jutarnji List said the 31-year old striker would get

\$US358,600.

Miura comes from the Japanese premier division team Verdy Kawasaki where he returned after a short, injury-plagued spell with the Italian side Genoa and is seen as a straight replacement for Aussie Mark Viduka who transferred to Celtic.

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to dazzle your friends are Troy Halpin, Bobby Despotovski, Vas Kalogeracos, all of Perth Glory, and Jessica Sardi, a highly talented female soccer player.

Every trick is shown in slow-mo and is expertly described and then repeated so that the aspiring Diego Maradonas in Australia

can pick up the tips.

The expert filming and quality sound make this a great video to watch over and over again while youngsters intent on improving ball skills will find it a favourite.

Highly recommended for young players and Level 1 coaches.

Stuart Bell

## ALOISI: I'm no Dublin

John Aloisi might have proved an immediate hit with his new Coventry teammates after scoring his first goal for the club - but the Australian-born player insisted he does not want to be compared with former local hero Dion Dublin.

Aloisi was bought on the cheap by Coventry manager Gordon Strachan from money-troubled Portsmouth to boost the Sky Blues attack after the departure of Dublin to Aston Villa.

And he made an instant impact after coming on as substitute with an 80th minute equaliser to add to the 17 goals he has scored for Pompey this season.

The former Standard Liege, Antwerp and Cremonese player said: "I have got faith in my ability to do well at this level. I did well the level below in the first division, which is not as low a standard as some people think. It's very tough and quicker than the premier-

ship. If you have got a mind to score goals, I think you can do it at any level.

"It won't be that easy because you are not going to get as many chances in the premiership in every game as further down the scale. I know Coventry have been struggling to score goals but I think they will soon start flowing. Noel Whelan has been having some bad luck which will eventually turn."

Aloisi added: "I don't feel any extra responsibility because I have been brought in as Dion Dublin's replacement. He did a great job at Coventry and is doing the same for Villa but I am a completely different player to him. He also had a lot more experience than I've got under my belt. I'm still learning the game. I'm not going to try and follow in his footsteps at all. I hope I'm as successful as he has been but I'll be my own player and I want to do well for the team."

## FIFA Delegates gather in Zurich

FIFA will welcome a delegation from the International Olympic Committee to FIFA House on Wednesday 6 January for a day of meetings.

The top-level IOC delegation, headed by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, will meet with FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter and other officials.

### Agenda Items

Items on the agenda include FIFA's position on measures to combat doping, the structure of the Olympic Football Tournaments at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, and the introduction of a specialised Football Arbitration Tribunal within the existing Sports Arbitration Tribunal (TAS).

Discussions will also deal generally with the position of international sports organisations based in Switzerland, and more specifically the relationship between FIFA and the IOC.

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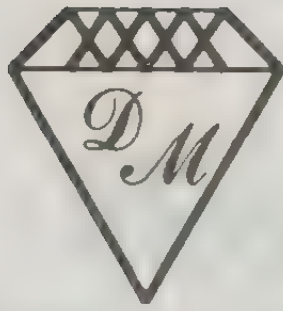
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# Breakers go on a festive roll

Newcastle Breakers' steady improvement and climb up the national soccer league ladder continued with a gritty 1-0 victory over Adelaide City at Breakers Stadium on Sunday.

The home side was able to break down the meanest defence in the Ericsson Cup as early as the fifth minute.

Striker John Buonavoglia held the ball up well and laid it off for left back Glenn Sprod to cross to the far post where South Korean striker Sang-Chul Yoon rose above a static City defence and headed home past City goalkeeper Jason Petkovic.

Breakers coach Lee Sterrey was quick to

compliment the gutsy effort by his team.

"We mightn't have the highest paid players but we've certainly got some with the biggest ticker," he said.

"I rate City one of three best teams in the competition."

Breakers skipper and man of the match Shane Pryce was ecstatic that his team had secured its first clean sheet of the season.

It took 22 minutes for City to create their first chance when wing back Angelo Costanzo crossed into the danger area for Soccerroo striker Damien Mori who came flying in but just failed to get his head to the ball.

In the 39th minute, only some desperate

**NEWCASTLE 1 (Yoon S)**  
**ADELAIDE CITY 0**  
Venue: Austral Park  
Man of the Match: Shane Pryce NEWC

Breakers defending kept City out when Sprod put his body on the line to deflect the ball away for a corner after a goalmouth melee.

In first half injury time, Breakers goalkeeper Bob Catlin needed to be quick off his line to smother the ball at Mori's feet.

Just after halftime, Petkovic needed to be sharp to prevent the Breakers doubling their lead, saving at the foot of the post from a Mark Wilson volley.

There was bad luck for City in the 55th

minute when a Carl Veart header from a corner rebounded back off the crossbar but the woodwork came to City's rescue five minutes later when defender Todd McManus' diving header from a Rab Shannon free kick hit the foot of the post with Petkovic beaten.

The Breakers were being pushed further and further back as City strove to get back in the game.

They had a lucky escape in the 64th minute when Wilson was in the right place to

clear a City corner off his goal-line.

The Breakers almost extended their lead in the 80th minute when substitute attacker Freddy Umlil exploited the space in City's defence and set up a chance for Buonavo-

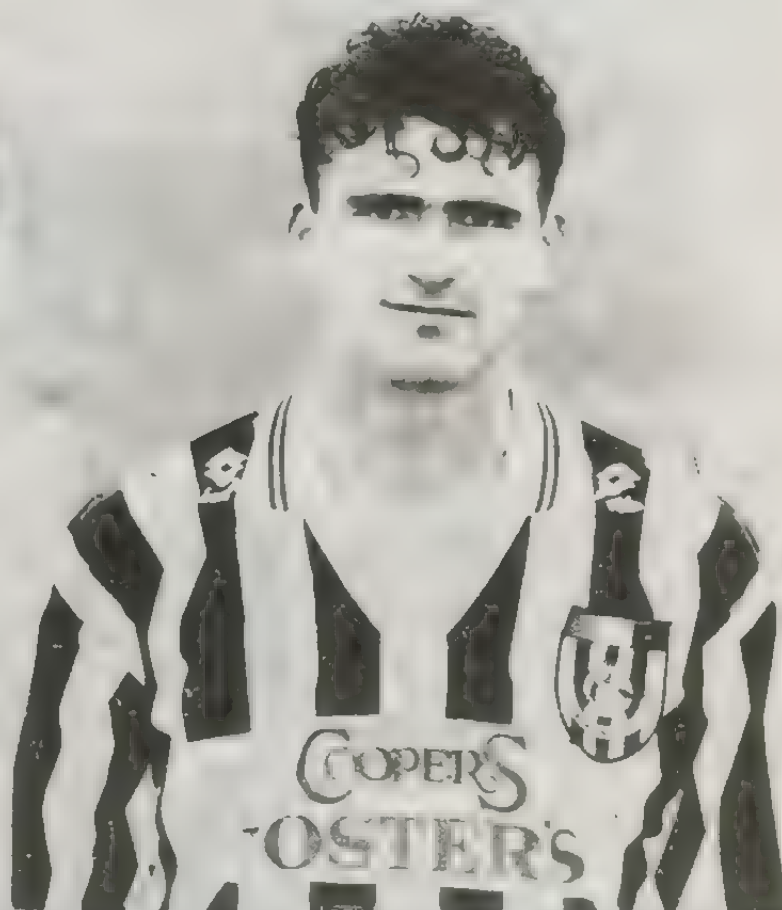
glia but the little striker's shot on the stretch went wide.

City coach Zoran Matic wanted his Newcastle deserved to win the game.

"We weren't ready mentally at the start of the game for some rea-

son but the Breakers showed a good attitude and were better than us," he said.

"I do feel that we should have had a free kick for handball though just before the cross that led to their goal."



## ERICSSON CUP SOCCER



**Ericsson Cup Round 14: 8-10 January**

**Friday 08 January**

**Northern Spirit**

**Saturday 09 January**

**Brisbane Strikers v Adelaide Sharks**

**Sunday 10 January**

**Melbourne Knights v Perth Glory**

**Wollongong Wolves v Sydney Olympic**

**Adelaide City v Marconi Fairfield**

**Sydney United v Gippsland Falcons**

**Canberra Cosmos v South Melbourne**

**North Sydney Oval 7.30pm**

**Suncorp Stadium 7.00pm**

**Knights Park 6.00pm**

**Brandon Park 6.30pm**

**Hindmarsh Stadium 7.00pm**

**Edensor Park 5.00pm**

**Bruce Stadium 5.00pm**

**SOCCER AUSTRALIA SCORES UPDATE SERVICE**

**1900 123 035**

*NOTE: all information believed correct at time of going to press. Please check with daily press, your club or Soccer Australia for changes to scheduled kick offs.*

ASF (02) 9380 6099, Adelaide City (08) 8336 9077, Adelaide Sharks (08) 8351 9866, Brisbane Strikers (07) 3252 5327, Carlton (03) 9389 6213, Canberra Cosmos (02) 6281 7981, Gippsland Falcons (03) 5134 5529, Marconi Fairfield (02) 9823 2222, Melbourne Knights (03) 9699 4188, Newcastle Breakers (02) 4951 2722, Northern Spirit (02) 9460 2187, Perth Glory (08) 9383 9911, South Melbourne (03) 9645 9797, Sydney Olympic (02) 9558 5355, Sydney United (02) 9823 6418, Wollongong City (02) 4226 3988





# Cardozo triple strike flattens Knights

By Ted Simmons

Pablo Cardozo became the season's leading scorer with a hat-trick in Sydney Olympic's 3-0 win over Melbourne Knights in the national soccer league match at Belmore Sportsground on Sunday night.

The win came as a tonic for Olympic after the side had given a very ordinary first half performance.

The path to victory was made easier in the second half when Melbourne defender Ante Kovacevic was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Cardozo was only

metres from goal when he put away his first score in the 62nd minute.

He converted a penalty five minutes from time and completed his first NSL hat-trick four minutes into extra time.

"My previous highest score was two goals, the most recent against Newcastle," said Cardozo.

The scoring action began in the second half when Olympic defender Mehmet Durakovic found space on the right and slipped his pass to forward Jason Culina.

Culina's first shot

was blocked, but his second hit the crossbar and rebounded to Cardozo who tapped it into the net.

For the second score, substitute Norm Tome fired a shot which was blocked by the keeper and the referee awarded a penalty after Cardozo was hindered as he tried to reach the ball.

The final goal was created by attacking midfielder Chris Kallantzis who weaved through the defence and placed his pass to the feet of the advancing Cardozo.

He has now scored 10 goals this season,

two more than Mile Sterjovski of Sydney United and John Markovski of Perth Glory.

It was an almost forgettable first half marked by two real chances and a string of poorly placed passes.

The Melbourne Knights had the best opportunity in the 19th minute when Ivan Kelic bustled through on the right and laid a perfect square pass to Zeljko Susa standing only metres from the line.

But Susa, with the defence caught out, leaned backwards and ballooned his shot high over the bar.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3 (Cardozo 62, 85, 90)  
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0  
Venue: Belmore Sportsground  
Man of the Match: Pablo Cardozo SOLY

He almost made up for the miss early in the second half when he ran through a lethargic defence and his 20m drive rebounded from the upright.

"We're getting there

slowly and each week Olympic is getting better," said Olympic coach Branko Culina.

"We could have won in the first half and I knew from the Melbourne Knights' tactics

that they would be happy to leave with a draw.

"The heat was definitely a factor during the game but we were the fitter side and always on top."



# Shot shy Falcons pay the price

The Brisbane Strikers took advantage of every opportunity to defeat the goal-shy Gippsland Falcons 2-0 at Mobil Park on Sunday.

Brisbane took the lead at the 37th minute following some poor marking by Gippsland.

Unmarked striker Jeremy Harris chipped a beautiful ball to Stuart McLaren who hammered it into the net.

The home side made some valiant attempts to respond with touches of good play resulting in shots at goal by Marko Perinovic, Archie Thompson and Sasha Becvinovski, while substitute Will Hastie just missed the target with a rocket-like shot from the edge of the penalty box at the 67th minute.

The game was sealed

for the visitors in the 70th minute when substitute Jade North stole the ball from the Gippsland defence, turned and scored to make it 2-0.

Gippsland has now scored just six goals in 12 matches.

The Falcons began the stronger with good decisive moves forward, but the delivery from the midfield often lacked precision with one touch too many allowing Brisbane to get back into the game.

The Strikers hassled the home side's defence with shots at every opportunity forcing keeper Chris Ball, playing his first game for the ippslanders, to make several excellent saves.

Following last week's defeat against Northern Spirit and a poor goal-

scoring record, Gippsland coach Stuart Munro put on the field an attacking team with virtually a four-man strike force.

The plan only worked up to approximately halfway through the first half when it became sorely evident that the Gippslanders weren't hungry enough.

"It wasn't good enough," said Munro.

"The performances of some of the players was pathetic. Today they weren't good enough to play at this level."

Brisbane coach John Kosmina was pleased with the result but felt that his team's performance could have been better.

"There were some sloppy patches of play, and if the Gippslanders were stronger they could have punished us."

"They (Gippsland) started stronger but gradually we lifted and shut them down."

# Bootsy show steals the Glory

By Digby Beacham

Vinko Buljubasic ing straight down the

Con Boutsianis wound back the clock to torment Carlton and give Perth Glory a much needed win in the feature national soccer league match here on Sunday.

Boutsianis weaved his magic to score Perth's opening goal and then had a hand in another two as the Glory outclassed Carlton 3-0.

The victory was Perth's first in a month and consolidated its position in the top two.

In contrast, Carlton suffered its first defeat since round six and missed a golden opportunity to put away a Glory side missing star quartet Robert Trajkovski,

PERTH GLORY 3 (Boutsianis 53, Garcia 63, Markovski 85)  
CARLTON 0  
Venue: Perth Oval  
Man of the Match: Con Boutsianis PRTH

(both injured), Gareth Naven and Bobby Despotovski (both suspended).

Carlton looked the more urgent of the two teams and hurt Perth early with its dashing counter attacks.

The Blues should have gone ahead in the 27th minute when Andy Vlahos missed from directly in front from just eight metres out.

That was the best chance in a sloppy first half, as both sides struggled to adjust to a gusting southerly blow-

pitch.

A 0-0 scoreline at halftime was the result and the game needed something special after the break to ignite some interest.

That's where Boutsianis came in.

The skilful midfielder, who scored the winning goal for South Melbourne over Carlton in last year's grand final, got the Glory rolling in the 63rd minute.

The dead ball specialist curled in a miraculous 28m free kick, which Carlton

goalkeeper Adrian Cajalj could not touch.

Ten minutes later, a powerful throw in from Boutsianis eluded almost everybody until Olyroo utility Michael Garcia latched onto it with his left foot.

The goal capped off a memorable three weeks for Garcia who missed Perth's last game before Christmas because of the birth of his first child.

With the match already in the Glory's grasp, super striker John Markovski rubbed salt into Carlton's gaping wounds.

In the 86th minute, Markovski beat Cajalj after Boutsianis had put Garcia into space with a carefully weighted chip pass.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0  
BRISBANE STRIKERS 2 (McLaren 37, North 70)  
Venue: Falcons Park  
Man of the Match: Chris Ball GIPS



# Coveny header keeps NSL lead

By Alan Clark

United player-coach David Mitchell was a very unhappy man at the post-match media conference following his team's defeat at the hands of South Melbourne courtesy of Vaughan Coveny's 52nd minute goal.

"I'd like the statistics about how many get sent off at South Melbourne this and the past seasons - they just milk it. And it's a pity because they're a good team," said Mitchell.

What had irked him so was that four Sydney United player had been booked within the first 34 minutes leading to referee Mark Shield and United's experienced captain Velimir Kupresak having a mid-pitch conference following which Kupresak had returned to his defensive position urging his players to settle down.

With so many booked so early, you'd never back the game to end with the full complement of players.

The captain's words had some effect, or at least until the 67th minute, at which time the inevitable occurred: one of the four - midfielder David Bennett - managed to earn a second yellow to conclude his further participation in this enthralling game between two of the league's pedigree and form sides.

Jacob Burns, another to be cautioned in this early flurry, also saw the referee's red card but in the game's added time.

Although that dismissal had little direct effect on this game, he will be suspended for next week's tussle against Gippsland Falcons.

"We've had the best disciplinary record all season. We've had two or

seven minutes after bringing himself on to add firepower to United's attack.

The five United players booked, and two dismissed, were joined in the referee's notebook by four from South Melbourne - all in the last half-hour as what had been a fast-paced game got positively frantic.

But it wasn't a dirty game - full-blooded certainly.

Quick, clever, and value for money for those in attendance, as the game was in balance from the first to the last.

The teams were separated by Coveny's 52nd minute headed goal after Paul Trimboli had picked up a David Clarkson ball which sent him wide to

Coveny rose high to head home past the otherwise faultless Andrew Crews.

As the sides were evenly matched, it was always likely that if the game were to be won, it would be by this narrowest of margins. From the very beginning, both teams were committed to midfield possession, working hard off the ball to create some space, probing for the ball that would set their speedy front players free - Coveny and Michael Curcija for South Melbourne, Joel Griffiths and Michael Sterjovski for Sydney United.

Kupresak used all his experience and his marshalling of Richard Plesa and Joe Vrkic to keep Coveny and Curcija at

ing him in the air, nor the merest hint of possibility of winning a face-to-face duel.

Slighter in frame than Kupresak, giving away centimetres as well as kilos was South Melbourne's Fausto De Amicis.

What he lacks in physical presence, De Amicis has in football craft - an ability to read the play, organise his marking defenders, spot the potential for danger, and recognise the positioning of his supporting players.

He too became next to impassable.

Clarkson had shot wide in the early period, Curcija and Jason Polak also had chances before the first half ended for South. and Bennett had United's best effort well saved by Michael Petkovic after Michael Santalab had beaten Goran Lozanovski down the left.

Lozanovski did not take the field after the break and was replaced by Robert Liparoti.

Two minutes into the second half, Clarkson gave himself the opportunity

to repeat his net-bursting goal against Wollongong, but despite it being on target, Crews made an athletic diving save.

Then came Coveny's goal, and rather than dishearten Sydney United, it seemed to act as a spur.

Wave after wave of United attack ensued as the Sydney-siders committed to the equaliser.

In contrast, South rather lost their way - a fact which caused South coach Ange Postecoglou some discomfort.

"We were one-nil up, we had an extra man, we should have just controlled the game. I just wasn't happy with the way we dealt with it."

Just as the pressure looked as if it might cause South to crack, Peter Bennett drew his second yellow card for a rash tackle near the player's tunnel, and so didn't have far to walk to leave the game.

But still United's mind was on the equaliser.

In the 69th minute, Griffiths had finally managed to outrun De Amicis

and cut the ball back to Sterjovski.

Petkovic came bravely out and managed to block the shot when a goal seemed the more likely outcome.

Griffiths had another opportunity after beating Nick Orlic but his subsequent shot earned the meagre reward of a corner.

By this stage, Mitchell had brought himself on and was making a telling contribution to the attack, but he too exhausted the referee's patience and had his name taken.

What had so incensed Mitchell was an earlier incident involving him and Petkovic when Mitchell's foot was caught by Petkovic, sending Mitchell sprawling in the penalty-area.

George Goutzioulis had a late long-range effort saved by Crews, John Anastasiadis - coming on again as a late substitute - thought he scored only to see the assistant's flag raised and the goal disallowed.

**SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 (Coveny 52)**  
**SYDNEY UNITED 0**  
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium  
Man of the Match: Paul Trimboli SMEL

three players booked all season, and we've had two sent off today," said Mitchell, who had himself been cautioned just

the right and at the edge of the penalty-area. The only crossing option open was to the edge of the six-yard box where

bay, looking only slightly at the disadvantage when asked to match them in a footrace.

But there was no pass-

# Crook sets Spirit on comeback trail

By Sam Lienert

A classy second half from Northern Spirit's star English midfielder Ian Crook turned a half-time deficit into a 3-2 away win over the Adelaide Sharks at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Crook spent the first half on the bench as Adelaide dominated and opened up a 1-0 lead at the break but he scored one goal and set up another late in the match as the home side tired in the warm conditions.

The Sharks started strongly with regular forward Hamilton Thorp lining up in defence to guard dangerous Spirit striker Robbie Slater which left Derek Poimer to do the bulk of the attacking work.

The move worked well early in the match with Thorp playing aggressively

**ADELAIDE SHARKS 2 (Poimer 32, Gibson 90)**  
**NORTHERN SPIRIT 3 (Crook 63, Zane 86, Marusic 89)**  
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium  
Man of the Match: Ian Crook SPRT

in defence and Poimer also enjoying the extra responsibility, scoring one goal and nearly creating two others.

He headed home the first goal in the 33rd minute from a pinpoint Alex Castro cross from the right.

Poimer narrowly missed scoring his second goal late in the half when he shook the crossbar with a fiercely struck 25m shot.

But Crook turned the game around with a brilliant long-distance strike in the 63rd minute, curling a free kick around the Adelaide wall and into the bottom right corner of the net from more than 20m.

The goal sparked the Spirit and Crook set up tall forward Clayton Zane for the second goal to take the lead in the 86th minute.

Crook delivered a thumping ball from deep in defence to Slater, who chipped it from the right side for Zane to cleverly guide it past three defenders into the net.

Slater was also instrumental in setting up the Spirit's third goal four minutes later, passing to Kresimir Marusic, who flicked a skilful back-heel shot into the net.

The goal was the Spirit's third in 27 minutes before the visitors relaxed the pace slightly which allowed John Gibson to score a goal in the final minute.

Adelaide Sharks Alex Castro



INSIDE SOCCER Australia's weekly soccer Bible



# Stallions in six goal thriller at Bossley

By Anthony Raineri

Unheralded Wollongong Wolves striker Raymond Younis came within a metre of bagging a hat-trick in his team's thrilling 3-3 national soccer league draw with Marconi Fairfield at Marconi Stadium on Saturday.

With three minutes to go and two goals under his belt, Younis found himself in a one-on-one situation with Marconi keeper David Aceski but the 24-year-old striker's shot beat the keeper but bounced to the left of the goal.

In injury time, Younis again had a chance to hit the winner but his long run into the penalty box was clinically diffused by Marconi substitute Buddy Farah.

Francis Awaritefe,

the oldest player on the field, could have been Marconi's hero but his 75th minute shot in front of goal sailed over the bar.

In a seesawing game, five of the goals were scored before half-time and Marconi came from behind twice.

Wollongong signalled its intention to attack almost from the kickoff with a 35m shot from rookie Paul Reid whistling over the bar.

The visitor's attacking policy was rewarded in the 14th minute when the livewire Reid found time on the ball in the penalty box and shot with his left

foot low but firmly wide of keeper Aceski and inside the post.

Wollongong were two up after 24 minutes when striker Saso Petrovski held at bay two Marconi defenders, spun around and laid a perfect through ball to Younis who gave Aceski no chance.

The Wolves could have increased their lead twice minutes later.

First, Aceski spilled a free-kick with two opposition strikers on him and then, Younis volleyed into the side netting after a right side cross from Petrov-

ski.

In the 38th minute, against the run of play, Marconi replied – and then got a second within three minutes.

Marconi midfielder Marcus Phillips lofted the ball into the penalty box and Kris Trajanovski's header lobbed over keeper Les Pogliacomini for his fourth goal of the season.

Minutes before the break, Mike Smith jumped the highest to head in a corner from Vlado Zoric's right side corner.

With the crowd counting down to half-time, Petrovski dribbled with surprising

giving a square ball to the fully launched Younis who rammed home his second goal of the match.

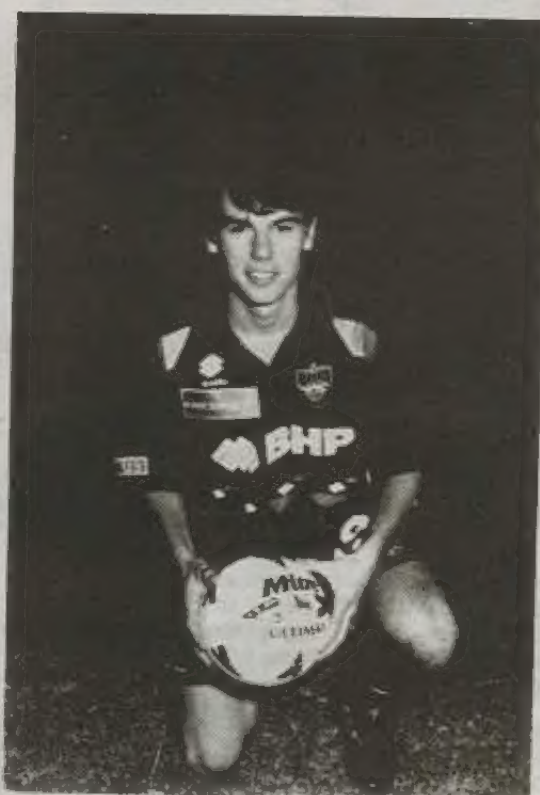
Wollongong coach Nick Theodorakopoulos said his team's performance belied their lowly position on the points table and they deserved to win.

"I genuinely feel we have been unlucky in the past few weeks," he said.

"It's not an excuse. I don't want to use that word but we outplayed Marconi for most of the game.

"A lot of my players are still young and have a lot to learn about protecting leads.

"With Alvin Ceccoli and Anthony Surjan to come back into the team from injury I think we will be a very good side in the near future."



Paul Reid: superb game in six goal thriller ease into Marconi's penalty area, before

**MARCONI 3** (Trajanovski 38, Smith 38, Awaritefe 63)  
**WOLLONGONG 3** (Reid 14, Younis 24, 44)  
Venue: Marconi Stadium  
Man of the Match: Chad Gibson MARC

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### MARCONI FAIRFIELD

DAVID ACESKI 6/10

At fault for a couple of the goals and mishandled easy possessions on several occasions. Still it is a big step up and he is improving.

CHAD GIBSON 8/10

Great performance from the youngster both in defence, and later in the game in midfield where he created opportunities from his frontmen.

MARK BABIC 6.5/10

Not one of his better games, he was solid most of the time but made a couple of crucial errors on occasions

MARCUS PHILLIPS 6/10

Put ball in for two goals but tends to go missing through periods of the game and some of his balls did not find a team mate.

DOMINIC LONGO 6.5/10

A couple of good tackles but again the lack of a midfield put more pressure on Longo than usual and he did err on a few occasions.

CHRIS CARE 6.5/10

Of all the midfielders Care seemed to be doing the most running. However his game was below that of last week.

DARREN McDONALD 6/10

Another midfielder who plodded through the game without doing much. His game is built on hard running but a bit more of the defensive work was needed for this game.

MIKE SMITH 8/10

Made up for a couple of missed tackles by dominating the Marconi come back. He was instrumental in Marconi gaining a point from the game.

FRANCIS AWARITEFE 6.5/10

Not up to his usual standards due to the lack of service but Francis still managed to get on the scoresheet. Went out,

wide looking for the ball but it was not even out there.

KRIS TRAJANOVSKI 7/10

Managed one or two neat moves and a great goal, Traja did quite well with what ball he was supplied.

VLADO ZORIC 5.5/10

A passenger the whole game the ball seemed to go everywhere Vlado was not. Good corner for Mike Smith's goal though.

Substitutes; Buddy Farah ten from ten for that last gasp tackle on Ray Younis to save Marconi but not on long enough to really gauge an effort. Tomich and Invincible unused.

### WOLLONGONG WOLVES

LESLIE POGLIACOMI 6.5/10

In no mans land for a couple of the goals. Former Marconi keeper Pogliacomini's performance was solid apart, but mistakes from a keeper cost more than most.

GEORGE SOURIS 6.5/10

Not the Souris of old but trying very hard to get his best form back. Came off with a bleeding nose. Replaced by Daman Langan who did everything he was asked to right.

ROBERT STANTON 7.5/10

Good game from this stopper. He almost saved the equaliser last time around and was constantly organising the defence. Made a couple of effective forward runs in the closing minutes of the game.

SEBASTIAN SINOZIC 7/10

Did nothing wrong and certainly got up the nose of the Marconi forwards. Continues to annoy the other team and play physical which opponents do not enjoy.

MATTHEW HORSLEY 6.5/10

Is getting better with every game and had a few good balls. Continues in his effort to also gain the form of last

season but it is a slow climb.

SCOTT CHIPPERFIELD 7/10

Making more runs as he progresses into the season and did so again in this game. Still would have preferred to have got more of the ball than he did

RAY YOUNIS 7/10

Despite scoring a brace Younis had maybe three other opportunities and should have scored a hat trick at least. Runs off the ball and certainly was a thorn in the Marconi side.

NOEL SPENCER 6.5/10

He is getting more involved in the games these days but still seems to miss large periods. A couple of good chances and some great balls to team-mates. Play a few more and he could really impress.

SASO PETROVSKI 7.5/10

Set up two of the goals and did a lot of work off the ball. With Younis they both added the speed up front Wollongong lacked so much earlier in the season.

DAVID HUXLEY 7/10

Tackled well and also linked up in attack. Started the attack that led to the third goal. His confidence is back now after his injury last season and he is one Wolves player who can lift his head up.

PAUL REID 6.5/10

It is always hard to mark a youngster like this. He is enthusiastic, full of class and certainly going places. Scored a good goal but when things started going wrong he could not turn the tide. Should have made more of the lack of a Marconi midfield, but it is all about learning at present.

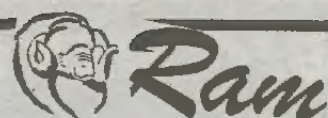
Substitutes; Michael Brooks and Esala Masi were used late in the game and both did a couple of good things.

WITH Andrew Davis



# SCOREBOARD

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## RAM SPORTS

### AUSTRALIA

#### Ericsson Cup Round 13

Saturday 2 January

Marconi Fairfield 3 Wollongong Wolves 3

Venue: Marconi Stadium

Referee: C Diomis

Attendance: 6,103

Marconi: Aceski, Gibson, M Babic, Phillips, Longo, Care (Farah 58), McDonald, Smith, Awaritefe, Trajanovski, Zoric

Scorers: Trajanovski 36, Smith 38, Awaritefe 63

Yellow Cards: Smith, Phillips, Gibson

Wollongong: Pogliacomi, Souris (Langan 70), Stanton, Sinozic, Horsley, Chipperfield, Younis,

Spencer, Petrovski (Masi 83), Huxley (Brooks 66), Reid

Scorers: Reid 10, Younis 21, 40

Yellow Cards: Huxley, Stanton, Petrovski,

Reid

Sunday 3 January

South Melbourne 1 Sydney United 0

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

Referee: M Shield

Attendance: 6,416

South Melbourne: M Petkovic, De Amicis, Iosifidis, Orlic, Lozanovski (Liparoti 45), Clarkson, Goutzioulis, Polak, Trimboli, Curcija (John Anastasiadis 79), Coveny.

Scorer: Coveny (52).

Yellow Cards: Polak, Liparoti, Coveny, Trimboli.

Sydney United: Crews, Plesa, Vrkic, Kupresak,

Santalab (Mitchell 76), Burns, Ardane, Barrett

(Townsend 76), Bennett, Griffiths, Sterjovski.

Yellow Cards: Burns, Santalab, Bennett, Ardane,

Mitchell

Red Card: Bennett (67), Burns (90+).

Newcastle Breakers 1 Adelaide City 0

Venue: Austral Park

Referee: B McKay

Attendance: 4,411

Newcastle: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Spred,

Ritchie (Sanderson 84), Wilson, Buonavoglia, Shan-

non, Haythornthwaite (Umlil 67), Yoon (Tancheski

64)

Scorer: Yoon 4

Adelaide: J Petkovic, Armour (Sabljak 63), Yates

(Mennillo 36), Ivanovic, Tobin, Talladira, Mori,

Veart (Stam 63), Costanzo, Terminello, Kim

Yellow Cards: Stam, Costanzo

Gippsland Falcons 0 Brisbane Strikers 2

Venue: Falcons Park

Referee: G Connolly

Attendance: 2,088

Falcons: Ball, Hopkins, Osman, MacNicol, Canosa,

Vargas, Puca (Hastie 56), Di Iorio (Armstrong 75),

Thompson, Perinovic (Gotis 56), Becvinovski

Brisbane: Bolton, Gwynne, Zoricich, Laybutt,

Wehrman, McLaren, Srooj, Harris (North 67),

Meredith, Hughes (Knipe 78), Stefanutto

Scorers: McLaren 37, North 70

Yellow Cards: Meredith, Harris

Adelaide Sharks 2 Northern Spirit 3

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Referee: S Hesic

Attendance: 2,809

Sharks: Wildy, Alagich, Castro, Souris, Artone

(Vidakovic 80), Thorp, Poimer, Duric, Pezos, Porter,

Gibson

Scorers: Poimer 32, Gibson 89

Yellow Card: Thorp

Spirit: Henderson, Arnold, Rudan, Bilokapic, Cas-

serly, Langdon (Mendez 88), Cunico (Crook 45),

Enes, Marusic (Moss 86), Slater, Zane

Scorers: Crook 60, Zane 83, Marusic 85

Yellow Cards: Marusic, Arnold, Bilokapic, Rudan

Red Card: Arnold

Perth Glory 3 Carlton 0

Venue: Perth Oval

Referee: E Lennie

Attendance: 16,481

Perth: Milosevic, Carbone (Garcia 44), Miller, Hay,

Wilkinson, Hamwell, Strudwick, Boutsianis, Mark-

ovski (Trpceviski 86), Kalogeracos (Deans 84), Hal-

pin

Scorers: Boutsianis 53, Garcia 63, Markovski 85

### ERICSSON CUP 1998/99

	home						away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
1 South Melbourne	13	6	1	0	17	7	2	2	2	8	9	27
2 Perth Glory	12	5	1	0	14	5	3	1	2	14	9	26
3 Marconi Fairfield	12	4	1	1	16	9	3	2	1	10	8	24
4 Carlton	13	5	1	1	17	3	1	2	3	8	11	21
5 Adelaide City	12	4	2	1	15	5	2	0	3	3	6	20
6 Sydney United	12	5	1	1	12	4	1	1	4	6	11	20
7 Sydney Olympic	12	5	1	0	13	3	1	1	4	6	13	20
8 Northern Spirit	12	3	1	1	5	4	3	0	4	6	10	19
9 Adelaide Sharks	12	3	2	1	16	7	2	0	4	5	13	17
10 Brisbane Strikers	12	2	3	2	9	9	2	1	2	7	6	16
11 Newcastle Breakers	12	3	1	2	10	9	1	1	4	5	12	14
12 Wollongong City	12	2	2	1	13	7	1	1	5	7	19	12
13 Gippsland Falcons	12	2	1	3	2	6	1	1	4	4	13	11
14 Melbourne Knights	12	1	0	5	5	9	2	1	3	6	10	10
15 Canberra Cosmos	12	0	0	7	3	15	0	0	5	3	13	0

Yellow Cards: Markovski, Miller  
Carlton: Cagalj, Douglas, Stergiopoulos, Vlahos, Marth, Lapsansky (Markovac 68), Bresciano, Moriera, Tricarico (Josifovski 65), D Cervinski (Della Rocca 74), Anthopoulos  
Yellow Cards: Vlahos, Lapsansky

Sydney Olympic 3 Melbourne Knights 0

Venue: Belmore Sportsground

Referee: S Micallef

Attendance: 4,181

Olympic:

Scorers: Cardozo 61, 79, 89

Yellow Cards: Emerton, Thomas, Kalantzis

Knights:

Yellow Cards: Kovacevic, Vukadin

Red Card: Kovacevic

Chad Mansley Anthony Mondello

Olympic Academy 2 Sydney United 2

Joe Dia

Bruno Silva

Gordon Collins 2

Sydney Olympic 0 NSWIS 0

Bye v ACTAS

Leading Goalscorers

Mark Hagger (Marconi) 14

Simon Catanzaro (NSWIS) 9

Kevo Guleserian (AIS) 8

Paul Tuturevski (Wollongong Wolves) 8

Tony Bauer (Newcastle Breakers) 7

Jim Bakis (Sydney Olympic) 6

Joe Bruni (Marconi) 6

Dylan McAllister (NSWIS) 6

David Onoforo (AIS) 6

### ERICSSON CUP LEADING SCORERS

- Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
- John MARKOVSKI (PRTH)
- Mile STERJOVSKI (SUTD)
- Vaughan COVENY (SMEL)
- Brad MALONEY (MARC)
- Francis AWARITEFE (MARC)
- Michael CURCIJA (SMEL)
- Alex MOREIRA (CARL)
- Damian MORI (ADL)
- John GIBSON (ADSH)
- Sasho PETROVSKI (WOLL)
- Joe TRICARICO (CARL)
- Marco BRESCIANO (CARL)
- Pablo CARDOZO (SOLY)
- Alex DURIC (ADSH)
- Kresimir MARUSIC (SPRT)
- Derek POIMER (ADSH)
- Kris TRAJANOVSKI (MARC)
- Sang-Chol YOON (NEWC)
- Ray YOUNIS (WOLL)
- Con BOUTSIANIS (PRTH)
- Peter BULJAN (CANB)
- Simon COLOSIMO (CARL)
- Joel GRIFFITHS (SUTD)
- Troy HALPIN (PRTH)
- Harry KARL (MELK)
- Ivan KELIC (MELK)
- Goran LOZANOVSKI (SMEL)
- Dino MENNILLO (ADLC)
- Scott MILLER (PRTH)
- John ANASTASIADIS (SMEL)
- Walter ARDONE (SUTD)
- Zeljko BABIC (MARC)
- Tansel BASER (SMEL)
- David CERVINSKI (MELK)
- Sean CRANNEY (BRIS)
- Bobby DESPOTOVSKI (PRTH)
- Jerome HARRIS (BRIS)
- Brad HASSELL (ADLC)
- Chris KALANTZIS (SOLY)
- Vas KALOGERACOS (PRTH)
- Dongi Ki KIM (ADLC)

### NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE

Northern Division											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D
1 Northern Spirit	12	11	0	1	28	7	33				
2 Wollongong Wolves	10	8	1	1	27	6	25				
3 Queensland Academy	12	8	1	3	33	15	25				
4 Australian Institute	11	7	3	1	34	10	24				
5 Newcastle Breakers	11	7	3	1	23	9	24				
6 Marconi Fairfield	12	6	5	1	41	12	23				
7 Sydney Olympic	12	6	2	4	32	15	20				
8 NSWIS	10	6	2	2	24	7	20				
9 Marconi Colts	12	5	1	6	15	19	16				
10 Sydney United	12	3	3	6	15	22	12				
11 Sydney United Colts	11	3	0	8	14	25	9				
12 Northern Spirit Colts	12	2	1	9	14	48	7				
13 ACT Academy	12	2	0	10	19	39	6				
14 Sydney Olympic Academy	13	0	3	10	7	41	3				
15 Wollongong Wolves Colts	12	0	1	11	3	54	1				

Southern Division											
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt		P	W	D
1 South Melbourne	11	8	1	2	23	9	25				
2 Victorian Institute	9	7	2	0	22	7	23				
3 Carlton	10	5	2	3	20	10	17				
4 Gippsland Falcons	12	5	1	6	19	21	16				
5 Melbourne Knights	10	3	2	5	15	19	11				
6 Bulleen Inter Kings	9	3	1	4	7	18	10				
7 Albury Wodonga	11	0	1	10	11	35	1				

- Pan KIM (MARC)
- Lubo LAPSANSKY (CARL)
- Stephen LAYBUTT (BRIS)
- Stuart McLAREN (BRIS)
- Gary OWENS (NEWC)
- Shane PRYCE (NEWC)
- Paul REID (WOLL)
- Mark RUDAN (SPRT)
- Mike SMITH (MARC)
- Archie THOMPSON (GIPS)
- Hamilton THORPE (ADSH)
- Norman TOME (SOLY)
- Danny VIDAKOVIC (ADSH)
- Andy VLAHOS (CARL)
- Richie ALAGICH (ADSH)
- Elias AUGERINOS (SOLY)
- Clayton BELL (GIPS)
- Peter BENNETT (SUTD)
- Paul BILOKAPIC (SPRT)
- John BUONAVOGLIA (NEWC)

- Vinko BULJUBASIC (PRTH)
- Christian CARE (MARC)
- Nick CARLE (OLY)
- Joe CALETA (SUTD)
- Alvin CECCOLI (WOLL)
- Scott CHIPPERFIELD (WOLL)
- David CLARKON (SMEL)
- Ian CROOK (SPRT)
- Jason CULINA (SOLY)
- Saso DIMOSKI (WOLL)
- Steve EAGLETON (UTD)
- Brett EMMERTON (SOLY)
- Michael GARCIA (PRTH)
- Andy HARPER (BRIS)
- Jerome HARRIS (BRIS)
- Will HASTIE (GIPS)
- Danny HAY (PRTH)
- Chay HEWS (BRIS)
- Matt HORSLEY (WOLL)
- Karl HROVJE (MELK)
- Harry JAMES (CANB)
- Alex JOSIFOVSKI (CARL)
- Ante JURIC (SOLY)
- Hrovje KARL (MELK)
- Dominic LONGO (MARC)
- Darren McDONALD (MARC)
- Brian MacNICOL (GIPS)
- Esala MASI (WOLL)
- Robbie MARKOVAC (CARL)
- Branko MILOSEVIC (ADSH)
- David MITCHELL (SUTD)
- Gareth NAVEN (PRTH)
- J NORTH (BRIS)
- Levent OSMAN (GIPS)
- Jason POLAK (SMEL)
- Adem PORIC (SPRT)
- Joel PORTER (ADSH)
- Joe RAHJER (MELK)
- Michael REDA (WOLL)
- Kosta SALAPASIDIS (WOLL)
- Robert SHANNON (NEWC)
- Robbie SLATER (SPRT)
- Noel SPENCER (WOLL)
- Paul STRUDWICK (PRTH)
- Anthony SURJAN (WOLL)
- Zelko SUSA (MELK)
- Dino TERMINELLO (ADLC)
- Reece TOLLENAERE (BRIS)
- Danny TOWNSEND (SUTD)
- Paul TRIMBOLI (SMEL)

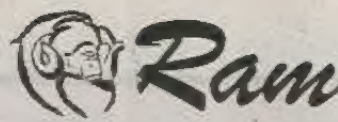
## RAM SPORTS

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# SCOREBOARD

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## RAM SPORTS

### ENGLAND

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

Monday 28 December

Aston Villa 2	Sheffield Wednesday 1
Charlton Athletic 0	Arsenal 1
Derby County 2	Middlesbrough 1
Liverpool 4	Newcastle 2
Leicester City 1	Blackburn Rovers 1
Nottingham Forest 1	Southampton 1
Tottenham Hotspur 4	Everton 1
West Ham United 2	Coventry City 0

Tuesday 29 December

Chelsea 0	Manchester United 0
Leeds United 2	Wimbledon 2

#### DIVISION 1

Monday 28 December

Barnsley 1	Queens Park Rangers 0
Bradford 2	Tranmere 0
Bristol City 3	Swindon 1
Bury 2	Birmingham 4
Crystal Palace 1	West Bromwich 1
Grimsby 1	Stockport 0
Port Vale 0	Bolton 2
Portsmouth 2	Oxford 2
Sheffield United 2	Huddersfield 1
Sunderland 2	Crewe 0
Wolverhampton 1	Ipswich 0

Tuesday 29 December

Norwich 1	Watford 1
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#### DIVISION 2

Monday 28 December

Bournemouth 1	Luton 0
Burnley 1	Lincoln 1
Colchester 0	Bristol Rovers 3
Macclesfield 0	Blackpool 1
Manchester City 2	Stoke 1
Northampton 1	Fulham 1
Oldham 0	York 2
Preston 3	Wrexham 1
Reading 1	Notts County 0
Wigan 2	Walsall 0

Wycombe 1	Chesterfield 0
Tuesday 29 December	
Gillingham 1	Millwall 1

#### DIVISION 3

Monday 28 December

Brentford 1	Cardiff 0
Carlisle 1	Cambridge 1
Chester 1	Mansfield 1
Darlington 1	Leyton Orient 1
Hartlepool 0	Rochdale 1
Peterborough 1	Brighton 2
Plymouth 1	Exeter 0
Rotherham 3	Halifax 1
Scarborough 1	Scunthorpe 4
Shrewsbury 3	Hull 2
Swansea 2	Barnet 1
Torquay 2	Southend 0

#### FA CUP

Saturday January 2

Football Association Cup third round (I denotes first division, II second, III third, ML minor league)

Aston Villa 3	Hull (III) 0
Blackburn Rovers 2	Charlton Athletic 0
Bolton (I) 1	Wolverhampton (I) 2
Bournemouth (II) 1	West Bromwich (I) 0
Bradford (I) 2	Grimsby (I) 1
Bristol City (I) 0	Everton 2
Bury (I) 0	Stockport (I) 3
Cardiff (III) 1	Yeovil (ML) 1
Coventry City 7	Macclesfield (II) 0
Crewe (I) 1	Oxford (I) 3
Leicester City 4	Birmingham (I) 2
Lincoln (II) 0	Sunderland (I) 1
Newcastle United 2	Crystal Palace (I) 1
Nottingham Forest 0	Portsmouth (I) 1
Oldham (II) 0	Chelsea 2
Plymouth (III) 0	Derby County 3
Queens Park Rangers (I) 0	Huddersfield (I) 1
Rotherham (III) 0	Bristol Rovers (II) 1
Rushden and Diamonds (ML) 0	Leeds United 0
Sheffield United (I) 1	Notts County (II) 1
Southampton 1	Fulham (II) 1
Southport (ML) 0	Leyton Orient (III) 2
Swindon (I) 0	Barnsley (I) 0

Tottenham Hotspur 5	Watford (I) 2
Tranmere (I) 0	Ipswich (I) 1
West Ham United 1	Swansea (III) 1
Wimbledon 1	Manchester City (II) 0
Wrexham (II) 4	Scunthorpe (III) 3

As at 2.1.99

DIV 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Fulham	23	15	4	4	36	17	49
2. Walsall	25	14	5	6	35	28	47
3. Stoke	24	14	2	8	31	19	44
4. Preston	23	12	7	4	41	23	43
5. Gillingham	24	10	11	3	35	19	41
6. Bournemouth	22	11	6	5	35	22	39
7. Manchester City	24	9	9	6	28	22	36
8. Chesterfield	24	10	6	8	25	20	36
9. York	25	9	7	9	35	41	34
10. Wigan	24	9	7	8	31	23	34
11. Reading	23	9	7	7	27	29	34
12. Blackpool	25	8	9	8	29	29	33
13. Millwall	24	8	9	7	24	26	33
14. Luton	22	8	7	7	29	26	31
15. Bristol Rovers	23	6	10	7	27	25	28
16. Colchester	24	6	9	9	23	32	27
17. Burnley	25	6	8	11	26	40	26
18. Northampton	24	5	10	9	23	27	25
19. Wrexham	24	6	7	11	22	33	25
20. Notts County	23	6	6	11	26	34	24
21. Wycombe	25	5	8	12	24	31	23
22. Oldham	24	5	6	13	23	38	21
23. Macclesfield	24	4	9	11	19	30	21
24. Lincoln	24	4	5	15	23	43	17

#### DIV 3

CLUB	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Cardiff	24	14	4	6	32	19	46
2. Brentford	23	15	0	8	41	30	45
3. Cambridge	24	12	5	7	39	30	41
4. Mansfield	24	12	5	7	38	30	41
5. Scunthorpe	24	12	3	9	41	39	39
6. Halifax	25	10	9	6	34	25	39
7. Brighton	25	12	2	11	35	34	38
8. Rotherham	24	10	6	8	45	36	36
9. Peterborough	24	11	3	10	40	32	36
10. Darlington	23	10	6	7	34	25	36
11. Leyton Orient	24	9	9	6	30	28	36

12. Swansea	23	9	8	6	29	23	35
13. Plymouth	23	10	4	9	27	21	34
14. Chester	24	7	11	6	32	33	32
15. Rochdale	24	8	8	8	28	27	32
16. Southend	25	8	7	10	31	35	31
17. Exeter	24	8	6	10	25	27	30
18. Torquay	25	6	11	8	28	32	29
19. Barnet	25	8	4	13	30	45	28
20. Shrewsbury	25	7	7	11	22	33	28
21. Hartlepool	25	7	5	13	34	41	26
22. Carlisle	23	6	7	10	21	27	25
23. Scarborough	24	6	3	15	26	41	21
24. Hull	24	4	3	17	21	45	15

Replay dates for English F.A. Cup third round matches drawn on Saturday:

Tuesday, January 12:	
Barnsley v Swindon	
Fulham v Southampton	
Leeds United v Rushden and Diamonds	
Notts County v Sheffield United	
Yeovil v Cardiff	
Wednesday, January 13:	
Swansea v West Ham United	

### ISRAEL

Friday 1 January

Maccabi Jaffa 0	Hapoel Jerusalem 1
Hapoel Beit She'an 4	Ironi Rishon LeZion 2

Saturday 2 January

Zafirim Holon 3	Bnei Yehuda 1
Maccabi Herzliya 1	Hapoel Tel Aviv 1
Hapoel Petah Tikva 1	Maccabi Haifa 3
Hapoel Haifa 4	Maccabi Petah Tikva 0
Betar Jerusalem 4	Ironi Ashdod 2
Maccabi Tel Aviv 5	Hapoel Kfar Sava 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hapoel Haifa	15	12	2	1	32	6	38
2. Maccabi Haifa	15	11	2	2	36	11	35
3. Betar Jerusalem	15	10	1	4	43	20	31
4. Hapoel Petah Tikva	15	9	1	5	30	20	28
5. Maccabi Tel Aviv	15	8	3	4	35	18	27
6. Maccabi Petah Tikva	15	6	5	4	26	19	23

7. Hapoel Tel Aviv	15	6	5	4	22	17	23
8. Hapoel Jerusalem	15	7	2	6	23	25	23
9. Zafirim Holon	15	6	4	5	21	12	22
10. Ironi Ashdod	15	5	5	5	25	26	20
11. Hapoel Kfar Sava	15	5	2	8	20	36	17
12. Ironi Rishon LeZion	15	4	4	7	25	34	16
13. Bnei Yehuda	15	3	3	9	18	35	12
14. Maccabi Herzliya	15	3	2	10	14	25	11
15. Hapoel Beit She'an	15	2	2	11	11	46	8
16. Maccabi Jaffa	15	1	1	13	8	39	4

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Saturday 3 January

Cliftonville 1	Ballymena United 0
Coleraine 0	Glentoran 1
Crusaders 0	Portadown 0
Glenavon 1	Newry 1
Linfield 3	Omagh Town 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Glentoran	23	15	4	4	46	25	49
2. Linfield	23	12	8	3	38	19	44
3. Crusaders	23	13	5	5	32	18	44
4. Newry	22	10	7	5	35	31	37
5. Ballymena	23	9	5	9	22	21	32
6. Glenavon	22	7	6	9	24	22	27
7. Cliftonville	23	5	9	9	22	30	24
8. Coleraine	23	5	6	12	21	36	21
9. Portadown	22	4	6	12	20	28	18
10. Omagh Town	22	3	4	15	14	44	13

### SCOTLAND

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

Tuesday 29 December

Aberdeen 1	Motherwell 1
St Johnstone 1	Dunfermline Athletic 1
Division two	
Alloa 2	Stirling 2
Arbroath v Forfar postponed	

Saturday 1 January

Motherwell 1	Kilmarnock 2
Dundee 1	Dundee United 2
Dunfermline Athletic 0	Hearts 0
St Johnstone 4	Aberdeen 1
Played on Friday:	
Motherwell 1	Kilmarnock 2

#### Premier League

1. Rangers	20	13	4	3	37	17	43
2. Kilmarnock	21	11	7	3	30	12	40
3. Celtic	20	9	6	5	42	20	33
4. St Johnstone	22	8	9	5	28	28	33
5. Motherwell	22	6	8	8	21	29	26
6. Hearts	22	6	6	10	22	29	24
7. Aberdeen	22	6	6	10	23	35	24
8. Dundee	21	6	5	10	20	32	23
9. Dundee United	22	5	7	10	22	27	22
10. Dunfermline Athletic	22	2	12	8	17	33	18

### SPAIN

Sunday 03 January

Real Zaragoza 3	Deportivo Coruna 1
Played earlier	
Athletic Bilbao 2	Valladolid 1
Barcelona 7	Alaves 1
Real Betis 4	Villarreal 1
Celta Vigo 6	Oviedo 2
Extremadura 1	Mallorca 0
Racing Santander 2	Atletico Madrid 3
Real Madrid 4	Tenerife 0
Salamanca 2	Espanyol 3
Played on Saturday	
Valencia 2	Real Sociedad 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Mallorca	16	8	5	3	16	7	29
2. Celta Vigo	16	7	7	2	31	18	28
3. Valencia	16	9	1	6	26	17	28
4. Atletico Madrid	16	7	5	4	25	16	26
5. Athletic Bilbao	16	8	2	6	23	22	26
6. Barcelona	16	7	4	5	30	19	25
7. Real Madrid	15	7	4	4	31	21	25

8. Deportivo Coruna	16	6	6	4	21	19	24
9. Real Zaragoza	16	7	3	6	21	20	24
10. Oviedo	16	7	3	6	20	23	24
11. Real Sociedad	16	6	4	6	21	22	22
12. Real Betis	16	6	4	6	14	18	22
13. Espanyol	16	5	5	6	18	19	20
14. Villarreal	16	5	4	7	22	24	19
15. Racing Santander	16	4	6	6	18	21	18
16. Valladolid	16	5	3	8	16	20	18
17. Salamanca	15	4	3	8	14	24	15
18. Alaves	16	4	3	9	11	25	15
19. Extremadura	16	4	3	9	10	24	15
20. Tenerife	16	2	7	7	17	26	13

### WALES

Saturday 02 January

League of Wales

Bangor City 0	Caersws 1
Carmarthen Town 0	ICT Cardiff 1
Newtown 1	Rhayader Town 0
TNS Llansantffraid 4	Haverfordwest 2
Postponed:	
Affan Lido v Aberystwyth	
Barry Town v Cwmbran	
Holywell Town v Caernarfon Town	
Connah's Quay v Rhyl	





# ***FEEL***

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# ***THE***

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# ***POWER***

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**NOVELL  
CANBERRA  
COSMOS**

**v**

**SOUTH MELBOURNE**

**Bruce Stadium**

**Sunday 10 January**

**KICK OFF 5.00pm**

**PRINCIPAL SPONSOR: NOVELL**